

SEP 17 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION

LOW-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Low-Level Waste Disposal

Meeting with Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc.

Representatives of the Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning (LLWM) met on September 15, 1987 with representatives of Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (CNSI) at NRC Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. CNSI is one of the two companies currently operating low-level waste disposal facilities, and is one of the largest vendors that produce cement solidification agents (used to turn liquid and dewatered wastes into stable waste forms) and high integrity containers (also called HIC's, they provide a stable waste package for unstable wastes.) The meeting was held to discuss some LLWM concerns that have arisen from recent studies conducted by the Brookhaven National Laboratory on solidification agents and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) HIC's. CNSI agreed that the proposed criteria for cement solidified waste forms and HDPE HIC's were appropriate and discussed methods of addressing LLWM's concerns.

Staff Review of Draft Proposed EPA Standards

EPA staff provided LLWM staff with copies of EPA's draft proposed "Environmental Standards for the Management, Storage, and Land Disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Naturally-Occurring and Accelerator-Produced Radioactive Waste" on September 10, 1987. EPA started developing these standards in 1974 and published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the proposed 40 CFR Part 193 in August 1983. The draft standards provide proposed (1) limits for radiation exposure to members of the public from the management and storage of low-level waste (LLW), (2) criteria for determining LLW that is below regulatory concern, (3) limits on potential exposure from LLW disposal facilities and assurance requirements, (4) limits for potential radiological contamination of groundwater associated with LLW management and disposal, and (5) requirements for disposal of certain naturally-occurring and accelerator-produced radioactive material. Preliminary review by the LLWM staff is underway, with a meeting on this subject planned for the week of September 28.

Development of Brochure on 10 CFR Part 61

On September 15, 1987, staff from the Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning met with representatives of Afton Associates to discuss the development of a brochure that describes, in layman's terms, the procedures and criteria set forth in 10 CFR Part 61. The purpose, scope, content and format of the brochure were discussed during the meeting. It is currently estimated that the brochure will be available for publication in early December 1987.

NMSS MEETING NOTICES

FOR WEEK ENDING: 9/17/87

DIVISION OF LOW-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DECOMMISSIONING

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>DOCKET NUMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>ATTENDEES/ APPLICANT</u>	<u>NRC CONTACT</u>
9/21-22/87		Mexico City, Mexico	Attend meeting on the location of a low-level waste site in Texas and visit a low-level waste facility.	J. Greeves (LLWM)	Greeves
9/24-27/87		Oxford, OH	Attend Miami University (Ohio) Catastrophic Flooding Symposium.	J. Grimm (LLWM)	Grimm
9/29/87		Willste, 2nd floor conf room	Meeting with Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority to discuss the engineered design of the Texas LLW disposal facility.	Reps fm Texas, GPA and NMSS	Lohaus
10/1/87 8:30-12:00		Willste, 2nd floor conf room	Meeting with ICF Incorporated to discuss contract.	L. Bykoski (LLWM)	Bykoski
10/1/87 8:30-12:00		Willste	Meeting with Afton Associates, Inc. to discuss layman's brochure on 10 CFR Part 61.	R. Boyle (LLWM) K. Dragonette (LLWM) H. Brown and P. Shaker (Afton)	Boyle
10/4-8/87		Pittsburgh, PA	Attend the 1987 International Decommissioning Symposium.	M. Knapp (LLWM) T. Johnson (LLWM) S. Bahadur (LLWM)	Knapp
10/5-8/87		Buffalo, NY	LLW Forum Meeting and West Valley site visit.	Reps fm States, Compacts, DOE and NRC	Lohaus
10/6-7/87		Louisville, KY	Discuss LLW program at All Agreement States' Meeting.	Reps from Agreement States and NRC	Greeves

ABSENCES OF THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LLWM

John T. Greeves - September 21-23 (Travel - Mexico City)

Malcolm R. Knapp - September 24-25 (Travel - Albuquerque, NM)

Malcolm R. Knapp - October 5-9 (Travel - Pittsburgh, PA)

New York State/NRC Meeting on Mined-Cavity Disposal of Low-Level Waste

NMSS, RES and GPA staff met with representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Labor and Acres International, a State Contractor, to discuss pertinent documents prepared as a part of NRC's high-level waste program which would be of assistance to New York in their efforts to address mined-cavity disposal of low-level waste. New York State legislation requires State consideration of mined-cavity disposal of low-level waste. Although an acceptable alternatives, NRC's low-level waste program is not developing specific guidance on mined-cavity disposal of low-level waste but is focusing on near-surface disposal alternatives such as earth-mounded concrete bunkers. The meeting with New York was held to make information available and to assist them in developing State regulatory requirements for mined cavities.

Original Signed By
MALCOLM R. KNAPP

Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning

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