

February 9, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: John T. Larkins
Executive Director, ACRS/ACNW

FROM: Andrew L. Bates, Acting Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - MEETING WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW), 2:00 P.M.,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission met with the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) to discuss its recent activities, especially in the areas of low-level radioactive waste, radiation protection, waste determination, decommissioning issues, and igneous activity in relation to the proposed high-level waste geologic repository.

The Committee should continue to work with both the Offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) to identify opportunities to enhance the technical bases for waste-related activities through monitoring relevant research. The Committee should find, with input from the ACRS, an approach to provide the Commission with a coordinated set of recommendations on how the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) might broaden its assistance to NRC, for example, to support Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) programs and/or other new and significant regulatory research activities.

The Committee should also work with staff to identify and assess methods of monitoring for compliance and to identify possible enhancements for increasing confidence in the validity of associated analytical models. The committee should specifically consider how these methods could strengthen the reliability and durability of institutional controls.

The Committee should provide the Commission with an analysis of the current state of knowledge regarding igneous activity which the Commission can use as a technical basis for its decision making.

The Committee should review and provide advice to the Commission on the March 2005 French Academy of Sciences report on radiation risks at low dose rates. This should be a comparative analysis of the French study and the findings in the June 2005 BEIR VII report. Among the items the Committee should specifically examine is whether the views and data developed by the Department of Energy's Low Dose Radiation Research Program may have been considered in the French Academy study, but not the BEIR VII study.

The Committee should provide input on specific technical issues related to waste determinations, when requested by the staff, in areas where the Committee's independent technical expertise will be valuable for decision-making. The Committee should monitor research on technology regarding waste incidental to reprocessing (WIR) and review Department of Energy research reports on this subject and report to the Commission, as appropriate.

The Committee should review best practices in decommissioning to look for ways to improve the design and construction of reactor and materials facilities that would lead to less environmental impact and more efficient decommissioning.

Within the established ACNW Charter, the Committee should continue to provide recommendations to the Commission on significant generic waste issues of importance to policy-making.

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
EDO
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR