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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 28, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque

FROM: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs *DK*

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
HIGHLIGHTS

Attached for your information are highlights from the Office of Congressional Affairs for Thursday, January 28, 1993.

Attachment:
As Stated

cc: OGC
EDO
SECY

A/21

HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1993

- Betsy Keeling talked with Sam Fowler, Majority, Energy Committee, and he will be attending the IP meeting on Monday, 2/1, from 8:30-3:30 on the Discussion of International Support for E. European Reactor Safety.

Also attending will be Judy Pensabene, Minority, Energy Committee; Dan Berkovitz, Majority, Environment Committee; and Karen Field, Minority, Environment Committee.

- FEMA HEARING -- Sen. Mikulski held a hearing Wednesday (1/27) concerning the future role of FEMA in the federal response to disasters. Sen. Graham was a witness, NRC/FEMA emergency planning matters were not discussed; FEMA's Assistant IG did cite FEMA's interactions with local officials in civilian nuclear plant emergency planning as more in line with the rest of FEMA. See OCA's hearing report and Washington Post Federal Page story, both dated 1/28.
- THERMO-LAG LETTER -- Staff says they can have answers to the EDO and, in turn, to the Commission on 2/1. If so, that gives the Commission its "three days" and response by the requested date of 2/5 is conceivable.
- Rep. Ron Wyden's (D-OR) staff would like a briefing on the Trojan decommissioning effort. They are interested in NRC authority from start to finish. The briefing should occur next week.
- Rep. Gilchrist (R-MD) remains very interested in the Curtis Bay cleanup. A second letter was received last week. He is interested in a public event near the site. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and GSA are scheduled to reach agreement tomorrow (1/29) on who has responsibility for site cleanup.

- The Michigan delegation continues to monitor the dry cask storage approval process. Senator Carl Levin's staff, in particular, has called weekly on the issue. A recent letter to Michigan Attorney General offered a briefing to the Attorney General in a public forum.
- Bob Bernero meets with Ohio State officials and Chemetron Corporation tomorrow (1/29) regarding the Harvard Ave. cleanup. It appears the State will make it very difficult for Chemetron to bury the material onsite. Congressional pressure will return if the cleanup continues to languish.
- Peter Crane will be meeting with Bob Alvarez (Senate Governmental Affairs) and possibly Dave Berick (House Government Operations) next Tuesday, 2/2, at 2:00p.m.
- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is scheduled to organize this afternoon. The proposed reorganization would eliminate the Nuclear Regulation Subcommittee and in its stead create a Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation Subcommittee, to be chaired by Senator Lieberman (D-CT). Senator Graham is scheduled to take over the Clean Water, Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee. Ranking Minorities for the Subcommittees are not known yet.
- Regarding other Committees, almost all Committee and Subcommittee membership lists for the 103rd Congress are available in OCA.
- Melanie Miller, one of NRC's Congressional fellows this year, is working on health care issues for Rep. Mike Andrews (D-TX), a member of the Health Subcommittee on Ways and Means. Chuck Casto, the other fellow, is working for Senator Reid (D-NV).
- Both Hatch Act Reform and Family and Medical Leave are expected to be voted on by the House by mid-February. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee is having a hearing on Hatch Act Reform on February 17, and the Senate Labor Committee has already marked up its Family and Medical Leave bill. Both bills are expected to be enacted this year.
- The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has postponed a hearing on elevating the EPA to a Cabinet-level department until February 18.

- The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has postponed, and has yet to reschedule, a hearing on measuring government performance. Senator Roth (R-DE) recently reintroduced his legislation from last year, S. 20, which would establish standards by which government performance could be measured.