



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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

November 25, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: COMJC-92-009 - INTERACTION WITH THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON HIGH-LEVEL WASTE
ISSUES

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has agreed that the staff should develop for Commission review and consideration a comprehensive analysis of the three principal issues that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will be addressing (i.e. individual vs. collective dose standard, reliance on post-closure oversight, and feasibility of long range estimates of the probability of human intrusion). The paper should -- :

(i) review the history and background with regard to these specific issues, summarizing the considerations that led to the approach reflected in the current regulations, as well as any difficulties encountered in implementing the approach taken to date;

(ii) summarize the experience and approach that has been taken by other countries to these specific issues, as well as by the relevant international bodies; and

(iii) compare and contrast the approach taken to these specific issues for other environmental hazards (both radiation- and nonradiation-related) regulated by the federal government

and be limited to a coherent review of the historical and factual backgrounds surrounding previous efforts to deal with these issues. The paper should be based entirely on information about the three issues that is currently in the staff's possession.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

12/15/92)

Pending further guidance from the Commission on the three policy issues that the NAS will be examining, it would be premature for the staff to take a position on these policy matters in the context of the upcoming NAS effort.

The Commission (with the Chairman and Commissioners Rogers and Curtiss agreeing) requests that the staff provide to the Commission their views on what possible impacts section 801 of Title VIII might have on ongoing agency initiatives in the high-level waste arena. In particular, the staff should express their views on whether any of the ongoing activities to address regulatory uncertainties in 10 CFR Part 60 would be affected by the provisions of section 801. Commissioners Remick and de Planque believe that such a study would be better performed at a later date.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 1/15/93)

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
OGC
OIG