



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

ACNWS-0076

PDR

December 8, 1995

The Honorable Shirley A. Jackson
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Jackson:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, NOVEMBER 15-16, 1995, AND
OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During its 79th meeting, November 15-16, 1995, held at Two White
Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, the
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed the following
matters:

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. Key Technical Uncertainty Integration and Resolution of Key
Technical Issues

The Committee was briefed by NRC staff on its Key Technical Issue
(KTI) process for the High-Level Waste (HLW) program. Staff
described the KTI process, demonstrated how it is being used to
focus NRC's HLW program activities, and discussed some prelimi-
nary results. The KTI process, which is part of the Vertical
Slice Approach for reviewing DOE's HLW Program, includes: identi-
fying the issues; correlating KTIs with Key Technical Uncertain-
ties (KTUs); identifying technical assistance and research needs;
setting priorities for needs and resource allocations; and
developing implementation plans.

Conclusions

ACNW will prepare a letter report to the Commission on the NRC's
KTI process and Vertical Slice Approach.

2. Meeting with the Deputy Director, Division of Waste Manage-
ment, NMSS

Ms. Margaret Federline, Deputy Director, Division of Waste
Management, NMSS, discussed the budget, impacts of the budget on
the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), NRC's
involvement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the
EPA High-Level Waste (HLW) Standard, topics suggested by the
Executive Director for Operations, and site activities at Yucca

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Mountain. Mr. Wes Patrick, President of the CNWRA participated in the discussion of budget cuts to the CNWRA.

Conclusions

The NMSS staff will brief the ACNW on its provisional strategy for responding to EPA on recommendations contained in the National Academy of Sciences report "Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards." In addition, the ACNW will provide a copy of its revised priority listing of issues to the NMSS staff for its information.

3. NRC's Programmatic Approach to Low-Level Waste Management

The Committee heard from representatives of the Office of State Programs, the DOE National Low-Level Waste Management Program, the states of Nebraska and New York, and the Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum as to their perspectives on SECY-95-201, "Alternatives to Terminating the NRC Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Program." The general consensus expressed by the industry and state government representatives was that a strong NRC presence in the LLW area is needed and that a reduction to the four FTE level proposed in the SECY paper for Option 2 was too low.

Conclusions

The Committee will continue its deliberations and intends to finalize its report during its December 19-21, 1995 meeting.

4. Meeting with the Commission

The Committee discussed the following items of mutual interest with the Commissioners:

- NAB Technical Report on Yucca Mountain Standards
- Residual Levels of Contamination for Decommissioning
- NRC LLW Program Options in SECY-95-201
- ACNW Priorities
- Lesson Learned from Ward Valley
- Hydrology Research and Groundwater Travel Time
- Regulatory Issues in LLW Performance Assessment

The latter three issues were the subject of written Committee reports to the Commission.

Conclusions

5. Proposed Schedule for the 80th ACNW Meeting

The Committee agreed to consider the following during the 80th ACNW Meeting, December 19-21, 1995:

- Review of NRC's Programmatic Approach to Low-Level Waste Management - The Committee will conclude its deliberations and issue a report on the alternatives to the future course of the NRC's Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Program.
- National Research Council/National Academy of Science Committee Report on the Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards - The NRC staff will discuss its insights on the subject report with the Committee.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Activities - The Committee will meet with a representative of the IAEA to discuss relevant waste-related activities.
- Meeting with the Director, NRC's Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards - The Director will discuss items of current interest related to the Division of Waste Management programs. Among the topics to be discussed: pilot test of survey and statistical methodology for site decommissioning, status of HLW program, and public comment on program options for NRC's LLW program.
- ACNW Priorities - The Committee will review Task Action Plans for the initial grouping of priority review issues identified by the Committee.
- Committee Activities/Future Agenda - The Committee will consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The Committee will also discuss ACNW-related activities of individual members.
- Miscellaneous - The Committee will discuss miscellaneous matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Pomeroy
Chairman