



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

ACNWS-0084

PDR 2/26/97

December 2, 1996

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jackson:

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - EIGHTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, OCTOBER 22-23, 1996, AND OTHER
RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During its 87th meeting, October 22-23, 1996, held at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste discussed the following matters and issued the following report:

REPORT

Comments on Coupled Processes in the NRC High-Level Waste Prelicensing Program
(Report to Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman, NRC, from Paul W. Pomeroy, Chairman, ACNW, dated November 8, 1996)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. **Strategic Assessment**

Mr. James L. Milhoan, Deputy Executive Director for Operations, and other members of the rebaselining steering committee/task force briefed the ACNW on the status of the rebaselining effort, and provided an overview of four Direction-Setting Issues (DSIs) of most interest to the Committee, which include DSI 5, Low-Level Waste Options; DSI 6, High-Level Waste and Spent Fuel; DSI 9, Decommissioning Non-Reactor Facilities; and DSI 12, Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulation. Other members of the steering committee present included Dr. Malcolm Knapp, who discussed the four DSIs, Mr. Jesse L. Funches, Deputy Controller, Office of the Controller, who discussed Phase 3, development of the strategic plan, and Ms. Clare V. DeFino, special assistant. The Committee requested an update brief on the strategic plan when comment evaluation has been completed.

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2. **Branch Technical Position on Requirements for Radioactive Waste Land Burial Sites Authorized Under Former 10 CFR 20.304, 10 CFR 20.302, and Current 10 CFR 20.002**

Mr. Michael F. Weber and Ms. Heather M. Astwood, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), discussed the screening methodology that will be employed prior to decommissioning sites that had previously buried radioactive wastes in accordance with the applicable sections of 10 CFR Part 20.

Mr. Weber provided the background and history of the issue and described its anticipated magnitude. Mr. Weber also discussed the principal points in NRC Information Notice 96-47, which reminded licensees of their obligation to notify the NRC of "unused areas" and to commit to a schedule for decommissioning. He noted that not all sites will require remediation. Ms. Astwood presented the three steps in the screening method, noting that should the licensee not pass the screening, the site then would require more detailed evaluation. She then discussed the assumptions to be used in this process and provided several sample calculations derived from the analysis of an actual site.

Conclusions/Action Items:

The Committee, in addition to providing comments to the staff during the meeting, plans to prepare a letter forwarding its comments to the Commission.

Proposed Schedule for the 88th ACNW Meeting

The Committee agreed to consider the following during the 88th ACNW Meeting, November 12-13, 1996:

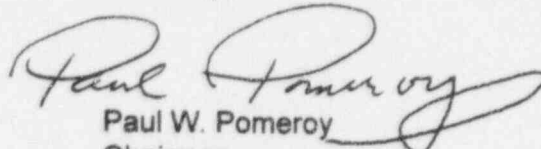
- **Planning Session** - The Committee will conduct a planning session during which the Committee will discuss the conduct of Committee activities, procedures and operations, and priorities for ACNW tasks.
- **Preparation of ACNW Reports** - The Committee will discuss proposed reports including the following: (1) radionuclide transport at Yucca Mountain, (2) specification of a critical group and reference biosphere to be used in the performance assessment for a nuclear waste disposal facility, (3) time of compliance in high- and low-level waste disposal, (4) comments on selected NRC Strategic Assessment and Rebaseline Direction-Setting Issue papers, (5) shallow land burials licensed under the former 10 CFR 20.304 and 20.302 requirements, and (6) ACNW priority issues.
- **Committee Activities/Future Agenda** - The Committee will consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The Committee will 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.

OTHER RELATED MATTERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee will hold its 89th meeting on January 28-30, 1997. It also agreed on tentative meeting dates for calendar year 1997.

Sincerely,


Paul W. Pomeroy
Chairman