



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

ACNWS-0085

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-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE, NOVEMBER 12-13, 1996, AND OTHER
RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During its 88th meeting, November 12-13, 1996, held at Two White Flint North, 11545
Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
discussed the following matters and issued the following reports:

REPORTS

1. Screening Methodology for Assessing Prior Land Burials of Radioactive Waste
Authorized Under Former 10 CFR 20.304 and 20.302 (Report to Shirley Ann Jackson,
Chairman, NRC, from Paul W. Pomeroy, Chairman, ACNW, dated November 20,
1996)
2. 1997 Priority Issues for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (Report to Shirley
Ann Jackson, Chairman, NRC, from Paul W. Pomeroy, Chairman, ACNW, dated
November 20, 1996)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. ACNW Operations, Including Methods of Formulating Advice, and Priority Issues
for ACNW Consideration

On Tuesday, November 12, 1996, the Committee, in an open planning session,
discussed its priorities for the next year; heard a presentation on the 1990 National
Research Council, National Academy of Sciences report, "Rethinking High-Level
Radioactive Waste Disposal," by Dr. George M. Hornberger, who served as a member
of that panel; discussed selected agency rebaselining Direction-Setting Issue papers;
reviewed the Committee's charter, and, in closed session, discussed the candidates
for Committee membership.

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meeting

Conclusions/Action Items:

The Committee issued a report, "1997 Priority Issues for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste," dated November 20, 1996.

2. **Preparation of ACNW Reports**

The Committee discussed the NRC staff presentations it heard during its 87th meeting, October 22-23, 1996, regarding the branch technical position on Requirements for Radioactive Waste Land Burial Sites Authorized Under Former 10 CFR 20.304, 10 CFR 20.304, and Current 10 CFR 20.2002.

Conclusions/Action Items

The Committee issued a report, "Screening Methodology for Assessing Prior Land Burials of Radioactive Waste Authorized Under Former 10 CFR 20.304 and 20.302," dated November 20, 1996.

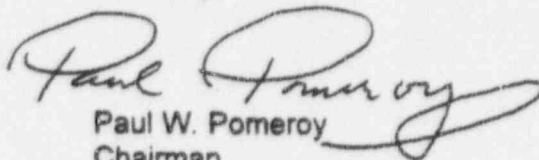
Proposed Schedule for the 89th ACNW Meeting

The Committee agreed to consider the following during the 89th ACNW Meeting, January 28-30, 1997:

- **Key Technical Issue (KTI) Status** - The Committee will review the status of NRC staff key technical issue efforts and the staff's integration task force work. The Committee will also review the NRC staff's audit review of the Department of Energy's Total System Performance Assessment - 95.
- **Meeting with the Director, NRC's Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)** - The Committee will meet with the Director, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, NRC, to discuss items of current interest.
- **Preparation for Meeting with Commission** - The Committee will prepare for their next meeting with the Commission. This meeting is currently scheduled during February 1997. The ACNW will select topics and prepare background material for the meeting.
- **Preparation of ACNW Reports** - The Committee will discuss proposed reports, including: (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 low-level waste disposal, and (4) comments on selected NRC Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining Direction-Setting Issue Papers.
- **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 issues and complete discussion of matters and specific items that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Sincerely,


Paul W. Pomeroy
Chairman