COMSECY-07-0011



REQUEST REPLY BY UNITED STA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 28, 2007

Approved, subject to the attached comments

MEMORANDUM TO:

•Chairman Klein **Commissioner McGaffigan Commissioner Merrifield** Commissioner Jaczko **Commissioner Lyons**

Mulal T. gran

4/12 /07

FROM:

Michael T. Ryan, Chairman Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

SUBJECT:

ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008 FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW) STAFF REQUIREMENTS

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) updated its Action Plan for fiscal year (FY) 2007 - FY 2008 (SRM-CMSY04-0012, Task 2). The revised Action Plan is provided in Enclosure 1 and responds to Commission direction that followed from the December 14, 2006, Commission briefing (SRM-M061214C). Additionally, the ACNW reviewed its charter (SRM-M061214C, Task 8) and recommends that it be changed to better reflect the Committee's broader scope of work in the materials area. The revised charter is provided in Enclosure 2. The Committee requests that the Commission approve the charter and enclosed Action Plan for FY 2007-FY 2008.

The Action Plan now includes the following six first-tier and four second-tier priority topics:

First-Tier Priority Topics

- (1) proposed Yucca Mountain repository
- risk-informing nuclear waste and material regulatory activities (2)
- (3) decommissionina
- (4) health physics
- (5) low-level radioactive waste
- (6) uranium recovery

CONTACT: John H. Flack, ACNW 301-415-0426

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Chairman Klein's Comments on COMSECY-07-0011 Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Staff Requirements

I approve the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW's) updated Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008, and the recommendation to change the name of the Committee to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (ACNW&M). I also approve the revisions to the Charter as proposed in COMSECY-07-0011, subject to the following addition. The desired outcomes, goals, and objectives of the ACNW&M's Charter should clearly reflect a Committee role as facilitator to foster the resolution of technical issues among external stakeholders, technical experts and NRC staff.

I also support Commissioner Merrifield's comments that expansion of the Committee's scope of review should not be the sole or overwhelming justification for increasing the Committee's budget proposals. The Committee should continue to prioritize activities to remain in alignment with the Commission's needs.

Dale E. Klein

4/17/2007



REQUEST REPLY BY: 4/13/0) UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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- health physics (4)
- low-level radioactive waste (5)
- uranium recovery (6)

CONTACT: John H. Flack, ACNW 301-415-0426

Comments from Commissioner Merrifield on COMSECY-07-0011:

I approve the recommendation in COMSECY-07-0011 to change the name of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials ACNW&M). I also approve the proposed Action Plan for the Committee's activities in Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008.

I will note that the Commission, over the last several years, has expanded the Committee's scope of review. One of the reasons for expanding this scope of review is to receive the Committee's advice on appropriate technical issues as the need is identified. However, the scope in the Committee's Action Plan should not be the sole or overwhelming justification for increasing the Committee's budget proposals. I commend the Committee for reprioritizing its activities over the next two years so that this modified scope of review activity does not have an adverse impact on current budget projections. Future budget requests should be based on what is needed to support the activities before the Commission.

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EQUEST REPLY BY: UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Michael T. Ryan, Chairman Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

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SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008 FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW) STAFF REQUIREMENTS

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Commissioner Jaczko's Comments on COMSECY-07-0011 Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Staff Requirements

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I approve of the Advisory Committee for Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2007 and 2008 as modified below. Under this plan, which is not unlike the previous plan, the committee would continue to develop forward looking position papers. While the Commission has approved of some of these activities in the past, I believe that the committee would serve a more valuable role by reviewing agency regulatory decisions.

I believe the Commission would be better served by a committee whose focus is on providing it with advice on the hazards of proposed or existing fuel facilities; the use of radioactive materials; decommissioning of facilities and complex sites; and the storage and disposal of radioactive waste, including safety standards in these areas. Thus, the committee should began to work with staff to revise the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/ACNW operating plan to review safety studies and facility license applications within the scope identified in the charter.

Shifting the committee's focus to be more like the ACRS will no doubt be challenging for both the staff and the ACNW, but I believe it would provide more valuable recommendations to the Commission. Expanding the committee's scope to include the review of license applications and safety standards will require additional members with relevant expertise. Thus, I support adding at least three new members with expertise in areas such as nuclear criticality safety, chemical process safety, and fire protection with an emphasis on fuel cycle facilities.

The committee charter should be revised to reflect a more direct role in the review of license applications and safety standards and be provided to the Commission for review. Also, a revised charter should outline the scope of the committee's activities during the review of a license application for a potential repository.

Lastly, the committee has suggested changing its name to Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials, I would suggest changing the name to Advisory Committee on Radioactive Materials.

Gregory B. Jaczko

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REQUEST REPLY BY: 4/13/07

COMSECY-07-0011

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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