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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE**

**Title: MEETING: 118TH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
(ACNW)**

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

MARCH 29, 2000

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This transcript had not been reviewed, corrected and edited and it may contain inaccuracies.

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

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6 118TH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW)

7
8 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
9 11545 Rockville Pike
10 Conference Room 2B3
11 White Flint Building 2
12 Rockville, Maryland

13
14 Wednesday, March 29, 2000

15
16 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 8:32
17 a.m.

18
19 MEMBERS PRESENT:

20 B. JOHN GARRICK, Chairman, ACNW
21 GEORGE M. HORNBERGER, Vice Chairman, ACNW
22 RAYMOND G. WYMER, ACNW Member

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1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 HOWARD J. LARSON, Acting Associate Director,

3 ACNW/ACRS

4 RICHARD K. MAJOR, ACNW Staff

5 JOHN GREVES, Division of Waste Management

6 BILL RAMER, Division of Waste Management

7 LYNN DEERING, ACNW Staff

8 MS. HANLON

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P R O C E E D I N G S

[8:32 a.m.]

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2
3 MR. GARRICK: Good morning. Our meeting will come
4 to order. This is the third day of the 118th meeting of the
5 Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste. The entire meeting
6 will be open to the public.

7 Today the committee will meet with John Greves,
8 director of the Division of Waste Management, to discuss
9 items of mutual interest, assisted I assume by Bill Ramer.

10 MR. RAMER: Yes, in my typical assistant role.

11 [Laughter.]

12 MR. GARRICK: And we will also continue our effort
13 of preparing ACNW reports. Richard Major is the designated
14 federal official for the initial portion of today's meeting.
15 This meeting is being conducted in accordance the provisions
16 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

17 We have received no written statements, or
18 requests to make oral statements, from members of the public
19 regarding today's session. Should anyone wish to do so,
20 please make your wishes known to one of the committee staff.

21 It is requested that each speaker use one of the
22 microphones, identify himself or herself and speak with
23 sufficient clarity and volume so that he or she can be
24 readily heard.

25 John, we're anxious to hear from you.

1 MR. GREVES: Good. Is this working? Hear this?
2 Good. Good morning. This has been a little bit of a
3 difficult week. I think you know that the regulatory
4 information conference was this week, so I had two sessions
5 that I was requested to make presentations at the
6 conference. Also our ISCORS meetings that I know you sit in
7 on on occasion or your staff does, that was this week and
8 the ACNW sessions we've had, so -- I think next year as the
9 reg information conference comes around, we'll probably
10 encourage you to try and avoid this week.

11 I don't know whether any of you had a chance to go
12 around there. This is the second year I've participated,
13 and it's a good conference. They had 900 people down there
14 at this conference. They do break-out sessions and there
15 were two break-out sessions, one titled Waste, one titled
16 Decommissioning, and I made presentations at both those
17 sessions.

18 And I think we actually need to play a stronger
19 role, we being NMSS, in the reg information conference, so
20 we're going to try and work it a little harder, and I just
21 commend that if you don't have a meeting that week, some of
22 you may want to participate.

23 The two sessions I participated in were basically
24 full rooms of people, several hundred people. There's a lot
25 of interest, mostly a utility type stakeholder crowd, but

1 they're quite interested in the spent fuel issues, they're
2 quite interested in Yucca Mountain, they're quite interested
3 in the low-level waste dilemma. So again, I'm going to
4 enjoy looking forward to next year's meeting and so I just
5 thought I would mention that to you.

6 Frequently the committee asks NMSS, what are your
7 priorities, and I think we met most recently with Bill
8 Keene, and he played out his priorities while you all were
9 meeting and going over your agenda. And individually I just
10 want to let you know from my vantage point, my priorities,
11 sort of in order one, two, three and four, are, the first
12 one is Yucca Mountain; the second one is Yucca Mountain; the
13 third one is Yucca Mountain, and the fourth is the rest.

14 I went to this reg information conference
15 yesterday, and Chairman Meserve spoke as all the
16 commissioners did. And a significant number of the
17 questions he got were on Yucca Mountain. Commissioner Dikus
18 spoke yesterday, I was able to sit in on that session, and
19 in one-third of her presentation, addressed Yucca Mountain.
20 So it is an issue, it is the issue in terms of priority, and
21 I just thought I'd give you my personal feedback on that.

22 This effort to make decisions regarding Yucca
23 Mountain deserves attention, and I think this group, your
24 group, is one that is well-equipped to provide information
25 on that. So I just thought I'd give you my personal set of

1 priorities.

2 MR. GARRICK: Was there any other agency
3 representation at the meeting?

4 MR. GREVES: At the reg information conference?

5 MR. GARRICK: Yeah.

6 MR. GREVES: EPA was at the meeting; DOE was at
7 the meeting; I was only able to be there part of the day, I
8 don't know what other agency level of participation on, you
9 know, the actual presentations were. They were clearly at
10 the meeting, got up and then made comments. Whether they
11 were part of presentations I really just wasn't able to be
12 there and participate.

13 But they clearly have a need to know what's going
14 on in that type of arena. It's mostly utility, NEI,
15 utilities, contractors that serve the -- and of course the
16 group that I was speaking to was decommissioning and waste
17 issues, so I recognized a number of the people in the
18 audience.

19 But 900 people at this meeting, and the two
20 sessions that I was in was pretty much packed large rooms.
21 It was hard to count, but my guess was each, the waste
22 session and the decommissioning session probably had
23 200-plus people in the rooms. So it's a meeting that, you
24 know, we need to participate in, and each of those sessions,
25 lots of questions about Yucca Mountain, lots of questions

1 about waste and decommissioning.

2 I had more questions than I could answer in the
3 venue. They had these little cards that they passed out.
4 They kept passing the cards up, and there just wasn't time
5 to address all the questions. So I just put it on your
6 radar screen, and maybe you can try and avoid that week for
7 your meetings so that some of you might be able to get down
8 there and participate.

9 MR. GARRICK: I think that's a very good
10 suggestion.

11 MR. HORNBERGER: Is the date for next year's
12 meeting set yet?

13 MR. GREVES: I would expect it probably is, so
14 we'll take a note. Pat, can you just check on that, and I
15 want to engage them into a little bit more planning in terms
16 of the content of the meeting, and if you have an interest
17 why don't you join me and maybe we can come up with a
18 session where you can be part of the process. I mean I just
19 offer that that's an idea you may want to --

20 MR. LARSON: Did you keep the questions that you
21 were asked? It would be interesting to --

22 MR. GREVES: I kept the questions. I have them.

23 MR. LARSON: It would be interesting for the
24 committee to see what they are.

25 MR. GREVES: Yes, okay. I kept them, because they

1 were useful to me. I want to know what's on people's minds,
2 because these are the questions we have to have the answers
3 to. So I can share those with your staff. They're
4 handwritten, and we can do that.

5 Okay, moving into the topics that I want to
6 address, and not surprising high level waste is the first
7 topic. There's a number of things going on, and I know
8 we've had some briefings this week of you and your staff,
9 and the first on my list is part 63 and kind of a subset of
10 that is defense in depth. The committee is very aware that
11 we owe the commission a paper in April, and I might comment,
12 it's been somewhat difficult to address the defense in depth
13 issue.

14 We've talked to you about it a number of times,
15 and the thinking of defense in depth for a reactor just
16 doesn't transport one to one for a waste disposal facility.
17 You had a good joint session with ACRS, and I think we all
18 learned a lot in that process. So I think we've tried to
19 make transparent to you what our views are on part 63,
20 defense in depth, and particular, I know you're writing a
21 letter on that, and it's probably apparent to you that there
22 are a number of ways to go.

23 Is there the best way or the right way? I'm not
24 sure, but obviously the paper we put together, we've made --
25 we've identified some options, made some recommendations and

1 the commission needs to hear from the committee. I'm sure
2 you will be providing your letter, and if yours is not
3 exactly the same as ours, that's fine. I think this is a
4 deliberative process, and the commission deserves the views
5 of the staff and the views of the committee, and we go from
6 there.

7 So that's all I wanted to mention on that, unless
8 you want to engage a little bit on that. I know Bill and
9 his staff have been involved in those meetings. I'm sorry I
10 couldn't have sat in on more of them.

11 I'll just sort of keep moving. I know that staff
12 briefed you I believe yesterday on the Yucca Mountain review
13 plan. This seems to be coming together. We've briefed you,
14 we've met with some other stakeholders. It is sort of the
15 backbone of our review as that license application comes in
16 the door. It's a work in progress. We're further along on
17 the post-closure issues than we are on preclosure. We need
18 to catch up on that, and I expect that staff gave you a good
19 briefing on that yesterday. Bill was able to sit in on
20 that, so if you have any questions upon reflection, Bill can
21 answer them.

22 I'll just keep moving. The next topic that I have
23 is sufficiency comments. You also were briefed on that by
24 staff, and this is one that the commission owes comments
25 next May. And we gave you a briefing yesterday, and I think

1 the expectation is the staff will be pulling its comments
2 together, and we will sit down with you like we have in the
3 past and share where we're going. There's a schedule set,
4 and I'm sure we've found a way to go over that with you, and
5 if there's some problems with that schedule please get back
6 with us.

7 But the point is, we are going to develop staff
8 sufficiency comments, get them to the commission, and the
9 commission is not going to have a lot of time to do a lot of
10 deliberation, and I would encourage you to get your comments
11 in. I think Bill was targeting April, end of April next
12 year, give the commission, you know, a number of weeks to do
13 the process. So if there's anything we can do to make sure
14 that we're working hand in glove here, and making to you
15 transparent what our own views are so that you can do what
16 you need to do, I know how difficult it is to write letters
17 by committee.

18 So if there's anything we can do to facilitate you
19 being in a position to write your own letter on this topic,
20 let us know what that is. But this is a legislative
21 mandate. The commission has to provide these comments, and
22 DOE is expecting them in May, May time frame.

23 Did we go over the schedule with them?

24 MR. RAMER: We had a schedule and a briefing.

25 MR. LARKINS: John, has there been any feedback

1 from the commission on what their expectations are in this
2 area, or any guidance to the staff as to what they are
3 looking for?

4 MR. RAMER: I would say that the briefing that we
5 gave to you yesterday they're aware of, and to the extent
6 that I guess the absence of course correction type comments
7 from them would lead me to say they're generally aware,
8 they're aware of our approach.

9 MR. LARKINS: But they're aware of your strategy,
10 your plan.

11 MR. RAMER: Yeah, our approach.

12 MR. GREVES: We briefed the assistants basically
13 with the package before coming to you, and again, this was
14 the assistants, level, they seemed pleased with the package,
15 gave us a couple of pointers, a couple of pieces of
16 feedback, and it's not my place to say but I think I was
17 reading an expectation that they would hear from ACNW in the
18 end of April time frame. But you probably need to hear that
19 from them, not me.

20 There are two other items that I asked Bill to
21 address. One is 963, and then the closure plan. I know
22 we've got some meetings that we need to brief you on, on the
23 closure plan. Bill, would you jump in on this too?

24 MR. RAMER: Yeah, okay, so let me give you just
25 half a dozen or so points on the 963. Of course that's DOE

1 proposed amendments to their citing guidelines that they
2 would use in connection with arriving at a decision on a
3 recommendation for the Yucca Mountain site.

4 DOE is currently evaluating the public comments
5 that they received on their proposed amendments. That's
6 part 963. Their next step would be to prepare a draft final
7 rule, and a response to comments.

8 Our planning, our staff planning, is that we could
9 receive such a package from DOE in the -- as early as
10 mid-April, and if in fact that comes to pass, you know, we
11 would -- our plan would be to begin review of those DOE
12 papers, that being the draft final rule in response to
13 comment.

14 Remember, the context here is that we expect DOE
15 will be asking the commission to concur in the proposed
16 amendments to 963. But we the staff would be reviewing the
17 DOE package, and preparing a recommendation to the
18 commission on concurrence. My guess is that we would be
19 aiming -- we don't have a firm schedule because we're not
20 exactly sure when we're going to get the package, but my
21 guess is that we're looking at submitting our
22 recommendations to the commission probably in the late
23 spring/early summer time frame.

24 MR. GARRICK: Are there ongoing exchanges on this?

25 MR. RAMER: Not on this topic, no. I think at

1 this point DOE is pretty much involved in just getting on
2 top of the comments, and how they want to respond to the
3 comments, and what if any changes that they see as being
4 appropriate to their proposed rule.

5 So they're kind of doing their homework and
6 getting their package together.

7 MR. HORNBERGER: Do you see a need for ACNW to
8 weigh in on this?

9 MR. RAMER: I'd put it in the category clearly
10 that you want to monitor, and that at this point it may well
11 be that you don't need to. Hopefully we've given you a copy
12 of the comments on the proposed rule, or letter to DOE on
13 the proposed rule. We did not have a lot of comments from
14 the staff level. So that in any event, that might be some
15 barometer, some reading as to, that you might be interested
16 in.

17 I think it's clearly something you'll need to
18 monitor, but at this point it's not clear to me that you
19 would need to weigh in on. So we'll keep you in the loop,
20 clearly, when we get more information and schedule, if we
21 get more, we'll make sure you've got that as well.

22 Any other questions on 963?

23 Okay, the KTI closure, I was realizing last night
24 we really have given you bits and pieces of this strategy,
25 this initiative, but we haven't yet briefed you. We

1 anticipated we would brief you in this meeting, but then our
2 session with DOE was postponed until next month. But let me
3 just run through very briefly what we're trying to do under
4 the heading, KTI Closure, Key Technical Issues.

5 As you know, we have nine key technical issues
6 that we have used to focus our program the last four or five
7 years. Our goal is to resolve all those key technical
8 issues before DOE would submit any license application. To
9 implement that strategy, to achieve that goal, we're using
10 techniques that are borrowed from our general regulatory
11 practice to basically bin issues in one of three bins,
12 issues that are either open or they're closed, or they're
13 closed subject to confirmation.

14 If you've read the IRSRs, they don't really follow
15 this strategy. We want to bring a little more focus to
16 those areas where we think we've reached agreement or at
17 least have an understanding with the DOE, such that we could
18 close an issue.

19 That means, based on the information that we've
20 seen, we don't have any further questions. We think the
21 information is sufficient at this point. An issue could be
22 closed subject to confirmation. That means we understand
23 the DOE plans to develop additional information or analyses,
24 and we agree with that as a strategy to -- a path forward to
25 close an issue, but we want to confirm that in fact what we

1 expect to be given is in fact what we get from DOE. So we
2 would close that pending confirming the data or analyses,
3 either before we get the LA or in the license application
4 review.

5 And the third bin would be open issues. These are
6 issues where we have not converged with DOE, and those are
7 the ones that in prelicensing we want to work hard on to try
8 to achieve closure.

9 We'll use the Yucca Mountain review plan as the
10 basis to close issues. We want to be asking the question if
11 an issue is open, why do we need this information. We want
12 to use the Yucca Mountain review plan as the device to
13 answer that. We need it because it relates to this part of
14 the PA.

15 That's a little different than the way we've been
16 addressing the KTIs and the IRSRs. We haven't really used
17 the Yucca Mountain review plan, because it hasn't been
18 available.

19 Issue are closed at the staff level. That means
20 that the issue remains open from the standpoint of an issue
21 that could become an issue in a hearing, it could be raised
22 by another party. It's not a binding resolution in the
23 sense that it resolves it forever. A party outside of DOE
24 or NRC can raise the issue in the licensing process and
25 pursue it. Also, an issue could be reopened based on new

1 information. Staff could reopen it's position.

2 The goal of issue resolution is that any license
3 application will be sufficiently complete to permit
4 docketing, to commence our safety evaluation and to begin
5 the preparation of the safety evaluation report that would
6 support a decision on a construction authorization.
7 Obviously all of this is premised on the assumption that
8 we're going to get a license application, which at this
9 point we have to plan for, but we don't know because there's
10 not even a site recommendation that's been made.

11 We will be reporting on the progress on path to
12 resolution in our sufficiency comments. We talked about
13 that yesterday, how the sufficiency review and the KTI
14 closure strategy work together. We'll have a technical
15 exchange with DOE on this on April 25 and 26, and I think
16 Ray, you were planning on attending the one on March and
17 hopefully that will be convenient for you.

18 And we would be briefing you probably some time in
19 the late spring or early summer on where we stand. So
20 that's what I had to say on that.

21 MR. WYMER: I recognize that you have the KTIs and
22 the connection with the sufficiency review. But I guess
23 it's not totally clear to me as how -- do all of the KTI
24 open issues have to be resolved for you to agree with a
25 sufficiency?

1 MR. RAMER: No. No, I think we don't. Ideally,
2 ideally yes, ideally we would work everything out as to what
3 we want, get a commitment from DOE to provide that, put
4 everything either in a closed or a closed subject to
5 confirmation bin; I mean that, you know, aim high, yeah, I
6 think that's a good objective. Realistically, the site
7 recommendation is due. We begin considering it in November.
8 The books are closed in terms of data and analysis for that
9 before November, and you know, we may have issues that
10 remain open at the site recommendation stage, but we clearly
11 can report on our progress to get to closure, or whether we
12 see a path forward to get to closure by the license
13 application stage.

14 MR. GREVES: Bill, is it fair to say that we would
15 probably include some expectations in the sufficiency
16 comments; this is where they are now, and we expect that's a
17 stage suitable to get them to license application?

18 MR. RAMER: Yeah, definitely. I mean everything
19 is going to be out on the table. Nothing is going to be
20 surprising DOE. Nothing is going to be surprising anyone in
21 terms of what we think we need.

22 MR. GREVES: One aspect is the QA aspect. We've
23 talked to you about it periodically, and the expectation or
24 the point DOE and others have made to us is, they expect to
25 be I think at the 80 percent level at sufficiency time

1 frame, if my memory is correct. And that's an indication,
2 it's not going to all be there at the sufficiency stage.

3 Okay, any other questions on my first three
4 priorities; high level waste; if not, we can move on. I
5 mentioned the first three priorities, you know, in some ways
6 it's in jest, but it really is an indication of what's going
7 on even internationally. You're going overseas. I was over
8 to the Cordoba conference which I'll give you some feedback
9 on towards the end of my discussion, but most of the energy
10 was on deep geologic, and I'll give you a little summary of
11 what I was experiencing while I was over there at the end of
12 the discussion. And that's again another reason why it's
13 high priority with me personally.

14 Second area is decommissioning. We've been down
15 to brief you on a number of specific topics, and so the ones
16 I'm going to mention will be no surprise to you. Main
17 Yankee. We now have the Main Yankee application in for
18 review; we've done an acceptance review, and we have
19 accepted the document. That's the third of our license
20 termination plans that we now have in-house for review.

21 We have Trojan, that's proceeding quite nicely,
22 and I hope we can finish that up within the next few months.
23 We've gone out with a round of questions on that. We also
24 have Saxton in for review. But Main Yankee draws a lot of
25 attention.

1 It is the site that sort of came up with the
2 rubbleization concept. We've talked a lot about it, and now
3 we actually have an application in our lap to review. The
4 staff did a paper, it took us longer than I wanted to
5 produce this paper. And the committee has that, the
6 committee has provided letters, and the commission I believe
7 has sent you back an SRM forecasting an expectation you are
8 going to follow this process and keep them informed as to
9 what your views are.

10 There will be a meeting on May 15th after a
11 license termination plan is submitted. Our procedure calls
12 for a public meeting to go up and talk to the local
13 stakeholders about the application, who we are, what we're
14 doing and I would encourage the committee to either have one
15 of the committee members attend or at least your staff sit
16 in on that, because this is one of those cases that we're
17 going to have to cut our teeth on and see what this concept
18 of rubbleization is about, and give it a good, comprehensive
19 review. And my expectation is that the commission is going
20 to expect to hear from the committee as this proceeds.

21 I'll also point out that the meeting on the 15th
22 is in the evening, it's in one of the school locations. The
23 following evening in Boston is the first of a series of
24 meetings on updating the decommissioning EIS for reactor
25 decommissioning, so whoever you are able to send to the

1 meeting Monday night, May 15th, might want to also attend
2 the Boston meeting on the update of the EIS. There's been a
3 lot of interest in this particular topic. So I would just
4 personally encourage you to participate to the extent you
5 can.

6 Any questions on this topic?

7 MR. GARRICK: Do you have any suggestions on how
8 the committee should become informed on this project in the
9 best way possible; should that informing come entirely from
10 the staff, should it come some from the licensee, or what is
11 the process?

12 MR. GREVES: Yeah, just off the top of my head,
13 one, I'm encouraging the committee to be informed by sitting
14 in, these are important meetings and there will be a lot of
15 stakeholder interest in the northeast, so you'll, to the
16 extent you can go to that meeting to be informed on that
17 front.

18 Think about what do we do for important sites. We
19 have others come in and brief on Yucca Mountain; we have
20 people come in and brief on West Valley; so this is probably
21 a candidate. It's got a lot of visibility, and inviting
22 Main Yankee to come in here, obviously we will be talking to
23 you about it, but I think that's something to think about.
24 Main Yankee does a lot of outreach work, and my guess is
25 they would respond positively to come in and brief the

1 committee on what their approach is.

2 Obviously you can read the report, but frequently
3 you have stakeholders from various arenas come in and do a
4 briefing on this, and in fact has Main Yankee been in here
5 and briefed? It seems like --

6 MR. LARKINS: I think they came in when we had the
7 discussions.

8 MR. GREVES: Okay, the discussion on
9 rubbleization.

10 MR. GARRICK: It was pretty general, because there
11 wasn't a specific application.

12 MR. LARKINS: Right.

13 MR. GREVES: Right, and we were all struggling,
14 you know, what is this and how serious to take it.

15 MR. GARRICK: I think that given that there is
16 some, I would assume now, some real technical meat behind
17 this application, that it would be quite informative for the
18 committee to hear from the applicant. Now, is the ACRS,
19 have they scheduled anything in connection with this?

20 MR. GREVES: Not that I know of. You know, the
21 site is an NRR site. But the license termination plan, the
22 details of that really run through NMSS. So my view is the
23 issues basically are leaching, encapsulation, decon
24 criteria, they're really issues that I think the expectation
25 is this committee would be addressing.

1 MR. GARRICK: Well, since this is a precedent
2 setting kind of activity, and could impact future
3 decommissionings in a significant way, I would think that
4 maybe we ought to be thinking about how to get as much
5 insight and understanding from the point of view of the
6 applicant, of the licensee, as we can. So I think it might
7 be a good idea for us to think about scheduling something.

8 MR. LEVENSON: Unfortunately the dates of the
9 meetings you mentioned are when the committee will be in
10 Europe.

11 MR. GREVES: Well, I guess the staff -- are there
12 any staff you're not taking with you? Maybe we can
13 encourage Andy Campbell to sit in on it.

14 MR. LARKINS: We'll make arrangements to have some
15 staff persons cover it.

16 MR. LEVENSON: The point I just wanted to make
17 was, the absence of committee members doesn't mean an
18 absence of interest.

19 MR. GREVES: You know, part of my job is to come
20 down and give you some upcoming events. I wasn't, I didn't
21 put the two together, because I really got your schedule for
22 Europe this morning, but this is a substantive event and so
23 it sounds like you all will be to send a staff person.

24 MR. LARKINS: It will be interesting to see the
25 staff's acceptance review, public --

1 MR. GREVES: Oh, that's public. There was a lot
2 of upfront discussion with Main Yankee. Your staff sat in
3 on a number of those meetings, and I think that was the
4 right thing to do. You know we rejected the first two
5 license termination plans that came in. In hindsight my
6 sense was we didn't have that upfront discussion, you know,
7 there were some false expectations. And it's a little bit
8 of a shake-out process, and this is the first plant coming
9 in with an honest to goodness rubbleization approach.
10 Others are talking about it. So I think it's a good idea to
11 explore with Main Yankee, would they be willing to come in
12 and give you a little presentation on what their approach
13 is.

14 MR. GARRICK: Well, I think this is something
15 we're very interested in, and we should be, because I don't
16 think there's been an issue come along in a while, at least
17 on the reactor side, that has created as much discussion as
18 this concept has.

19 MR. GREVES: And my sense is the commission has
20 sent you an SRM, expecting you're going to follow this topic
21 anyhow, so it would make a lot of sense to have the licensee
22 come in and give you some presentation, so I'd encourage you
23 to explore that. Enough?

24 West Valley, another one of our topics that we
25 talk about. You're aware that we'd put out a draft policy

1 statement. There was a uniform request for an extension of
2 time. We extended that to the first of April, and so I
3 expect all of them to be rolling in just about on that day.
4 And I understand we have a briefing set up for you in the
5 June time frame to go over this.

6 I expect some significant comments, so as soon as
7 that comes in we'll make an effort to get the committee
8 copies of those comments, and I would enjoy some dialogue
9 with you obviously in the meeting or as we get together from
10 time to time, one on one, because this, as I've said in
11 previous meetings with you, this is kind of a landmark site
12 in this country. It's got one of everything. High level
13 waste, spent fuel in the ground, an adjacent low level waste
14 disposal facility. It's a challenge, so we'll be talking
15 about it in June, and if you see something in these comments
16 that you want to take up with us, I'd enjoy meeting with
17 you, the chairman or any of the committee to discuss as we
18 have in the past.

19 So just stay tuned on that.

20 Moving on to -- unless you have a comment on West
21 Valley; I think that's something we just need to look
22 forward to.

23 We owe the commission what we call the
24 decommissioning rebaselining paper. We briefed the
25 commission last year on our SDMP program, and I think I'd

1 characterize it that they were a little bit disappointed
2 that it wasn't a larger presentation. We made no mention of
3 the reactor decommissioning program, so the SRM we got back
4 said next time you brief us on decommissioning we want to
5 hear about all of decommissioning, including reactor.

6 So Larry Kamper and the staff have put a lot of
7 effort into developing the rebaselining paper, and it really
8 paints the full picture; the SDMP sites which I think you're
9 quite familiar with; the reactor sites that are in
10 decommissioning space; and the other problem sites that we
11 have.

12 So it tries to paint the full picture and identify
13 in fact what we've done with sites in the past, so
14 unfortunately I think the paper ends up with about 18
15 different attachments, but if you want to put it all
16 together it takes that level of a report.

17 And I think that the staff is trying to keep you
18 informed as to where this is, the papers, going through the
19 struggles of concurrence, obviously you'll have the whole
20 thing when the final concurrence is achieved. But I think
21 we're pointing towards a briefing in June and July, so
22 that's kind of a meaty topic that we should look forward to.

23 You mentioned that Main Yankee rubbleization was
24 one of the hottest things that's come along, and I agree
25 with you, because frankly every time I am asked to give a

1 presentation that's one of the things that's on everybody's
2 list, will you please talk about that.

3 Another one that's emerging is partial site
4 release. It's got a lot of attention. There's a lot of
5 interest in utilities in finding a way to address this
6 topic. You look at the regulations and there's not a neat
7 box for this issue in certain aspects, so I just have it on
8 my list. And we may look forward to spending some time with
9 you on that topic, although principally this is a nuclear
10 reactor regulation issue. They're the ones that developed
11 the paper with our input.

12 MR. LARKINS: Is this after the facility has been
13 defueled or is this during operation, like at Oyster Creek?

14 MR. GREVES: Oyster Creek, it's operational. It's
15 kind of an issue as to how do we, a utility, carve off a
16 piece of land, and there's a bunch of question marks about
17 this. I believe you probably have seen various papers on
18 this, and I'm not sure whether the commission is going to
19 give us some guidance on it. But it's a piece that probably
20 deserves a rule-making effort. And so we are on your
21 schedule to come down and brief on this -- Pat?

22 STAFF MEMBER: Right now it's a June/July time
23 frame that we were putting it on, ACRS, or it would fall
24 under ACNW. And that was one thing I think about a week ago
25 we talked about having to sit down and resolve, because

1 maybe both committees would be interested in it, and that's
2 where there's a little confusion on my part, where do we put
3 it and is there a way to brief both committees at once.

4 We'll be working in the next two weeks to figure
5 out the time frame, but it would probably be again June or
6 July on that item.

7 MR. GREVES: The papers have NRR origin, so
8 obviously it has to be coordinated with them. Many of the
9 questions that come up feel like decommissioning questions,
10 you know, what's the criteria, how do you release things; in
11 any event, I think it's something we need to work through
12 crossing the appropriate lines.

13 I'm going to move on to low level waste unless
14 there's a question that I rushed through on decommissioning.

15 MR. GARRICK: No.

16 MR. GREVES: Low level waste, one, our budget is
17 very low in this arena.

18 MR. LARKINS: Before you leave decommissioning I
19 do have a question.

20 MR. GREVES: Sure.

21 MR. LARKINS: There was a request from the
22 commission for the staff to provide a paper or to go back
23 and look at the, I think it was entombment as a part of the
24 decommissioning process. Is there something --

25 MR. GREVES: There will be a paper on that. That

1 is, research is working that issue, and we have sat down
2 with them and went over a strategy on how to write the paper
3 and where to go with it. I don't see those people in the
4 room, so it's coming and the committee, you know, obviously
5 will see that, and to the extent it make sense it's -- it is
6 an agenda item. But I'm just not quite sure where it fits.
7 Maybe you want to take a look at the paper and decide after
8 you see the paper.

9 I'm going to move on to low level waste, and this
10 is an arena that a decade ago I had 20-some FTE and lots of
11 dollars attached to when the Amendments Act was moving and
12 had some expectation of success. Well, we're in a different
13 place now, and frankly my staff resources on this front are
14 about three FTE and a little bit of dollars. But we have
15 been working on one significant project that the committee
16 is quite familiar with, the branch technical position on
17 performance assessment. And I believe we are scheduled to
18 come back and talk to you about that in June, so we're
19 looking forward to that.

20 One of the issues that we've struggled with is how
21 to characterize the criteria for a probablistic approach and
22 we have recommended going with what is called the peak of
23 the mean approach in terms of meeting criteria for
24 compliance.

25 There has been debate over how to do that, and I

1 would just invite the committee to look at what we've done
2 on that point, and I'd encourage you to support the approach
3 that we've developed.

4 We think it's consistent with what is done in the
5 high level waste program, but I will tell you, there has
6 been quite a bit of discussion about this, and we'll sit
7 down and talk to you about it.

8 I don't know whether you have observed this
9 already. I know Howard and others sit in on a lot of our
10 meetings, but we owe the commission a final position, and we
11 want to take the time to sit down and go over it with you.
12 So that's sort of on the agenda for June. Do I have that
13 right, Pat? It's a June agenda for this -- okay, good.

14 In the low level waste program area, one of the
15 questions that I got at the reg information conference was
16 what does the NRC do if anything on the low level waste
17 policy act. The point is, you know, we're two decades into
18 this and we don't really have a new compact facility. Is
19 there a role for NRC to do something, and I know the
20 committee has asked me that question, and I'm still
21 struggling with the answer.

22 Waste is now disposed of at Barnwell or
23 Envirocare, places like that. So the system seems to be
24 working. But with Barnwell pointing towards the Atlantic
25 Compact with New Jersey and Connecticut, there's going to

1 come a day if all that happens where many states do not have
2 access to disposal capacity. And you've asked me the
3 question, I've asked myself the question; I just don't know
4 what role NRC has in entering this fray.

5 I mean we're a regulatory agency. The question
6 is, is what we're doing today safe? The answer is yes, what
7 we're doing today is safe. Is a prospect of many states not
8 having disposal capacity a big enough problem that the
9 agency should enter the dialogue on this, but I don't have
10 the answer. I just share that dilemma with you. I know
11 you've asked the question yourselves, but the prospect of,
12 if Barnwell seals off, you know, basically the rest of the
13 country which has access now, at some point in time in the
14 future, that's not quite what we had in the past.

15 For example, the State of Michigan went five years
16 without disposal capacity. Did we have any safety problems?
17 No. And then the doors opened up, and I imagine Michigan
18 was able to offload a lot of the waste that they stored for
19 five years. But if you have a large number of states that
20 do not have disposal capacity, you get into the kinds of
21 problems that we're experiencing with the sites you'll hear
22 about when Kamper briefs you on the rebaselining case.

23 I think the majority of the sites that are on our
24 SDMP sites, are sites that were storing material and somehow
25 it got through the floorboards. That's the problem. And of

1 course if you store for five years, you store for ten years,
2 your chances of getting something down into the ground or
3 into the ground water increase. And the commission has said
4 in the past, their preferred approach is disposal. Get on
5 with disposal. So I just raise the issue. I don't have a
6 good answer. I know the committee has asked themselves and
7 have asked me the question, and maybe it's something we can
8 talk about over time, but I just -- I'm constantly getting
9 this question in meetings, and my first answer is no, we're
10 a regulator; things are operating safely now; this is a
11 issue to be considered by congress. GAO did the report, but
12 I haven't seen any results of that process. So my
13 expectation is that the commission might be asking us this
14 question at some point in time. I don't have a clean
15 answer.

16 MR. HORNBERGER: GAO didn't have a clean answer.

17 MR. GARRICK: Some of the key questions at the
18 information meeting, we guess one of the questions is what
19 can we take to the local dump.

20 MR. GREVES: That was one of the questions. And
21 all these things sort of weave together. An answer to what
22 can you take to the local landfill would be settled if there
23 was a clearance rule in this country. Partially settled.
24 And you're very familiar with that aspect, and it's going to
25 take a long time before this country comes to a settlement

1 on that topic.

2 But that's the low activity material. I'm a bit
3 more concerned about storage of class B and C waste than I
4 am in terms of real health and safety issues.

5 MR. GARRICK: It seems pretty clear, isn't it, on
6 B and C what you can do given the restrictions at Hanford in
7 terms of the location, and the restrictions at Envirocare
8 which pretty much leaves Barnwell.

9 MR. GREVES: That's today's picture, yes. If
10 Barnwell were to shut the doors even if they did it
11 gradually, it would be a problem for a large number of
12 states. I will have to point out to you that there is some
13 activities in Utah about taking class B and C waste.
14 Whether that will ever happen, who knows. There is also
15 some discussion in New Mexico, I think it's Waste Control
16 Specialists that's talking about developing a facility.

17 So there are some things on the horizon out there,
18 but you look at the track record and pretty much they all by
19 the wayside. Look how hard California worked on their
20 efforts out there. I mean they got a license, but they were
21 never able to build that facility. So we're asking
22 ourselves collectively a rhetorical question, what is our
23 role in this process, and so far I don't have a good answer.

24 MR. GARRICK: Do we have good information on what
25 kind of savings or what kind of impacts would come about if

1 we did have a clearance rule?

2 MR. GREVES: I don't have that. Frank Cardell I
3 think has been down to brief you. I think there are
4 probably significant -- it sort of depends on the level and
5 what the clearance rule ultimately would look like. The
6 stakeholders who have this kind of material obviously have
7 information indicating it's quite significant, if there was
8 some clearance level.

9 You're going to bump into it internationally when
10 you go over to France and UK. You'll bump into a different
11 attitude in both those countries, by the way, but it was a
12 significant topic in the recent Cordoba meeting. And it's
13 being practiced internationally, and the question is, what
14 is this country going to do about it. I don't have good
15 information on, quote, savings associated with clearance.

16 MR. LEVENSON: Has there been any discussion I
17 guess really on an international level, I realize it isn't
18 NRC's role, but it seems to me one of the things we need
19 ideally for background is just that, for somebody to
20 determine what is the background now in the metals and
21 materials of commerce, because we always say everything is
22 radioactive, and it sort of is. But even if we had a
23 clearance rule, it would be very difficult to interpret,
24 because presumably it's above background.

25 Has there been any discussion that you're aware

1 of, like the IAEA or somebody to determine what is
2 background?

3 MR. GREVES: Well, first we all know there is
4 background out there, in terms of -- one thing you can look
5 at is the academy report on NARM. They did a good job of
6 identifying what is occurring naturally in terms of uranium,
7 thorium, radium. They also did a good job of defining --
8 it's natural material, but it gets enhanced depending on
9 what -- I don't know whether you'd call that background.
10 The terminology gets a little fuzzy.

11 So that's a very good report in terms of giving
12 good information about what is out there in terms of
13 uranium, thorium and radium. So it partially answers your
14 question.

15 I have not participated extensively, but IAEA and
16 the international community has worked this issue a lot, and
17 they may very well have the kind of information you're
18 asking about. In fact, I would encourage you to talk to
19 Frank Cardell and Bob Meck, because they are the guys that
20 are working this arena, and they could probably give you
21 much better hard information than I could. So you may want
22 to visit with them one on one.

23 Your question or your comment was sort of going in
24 a direction. What I see the international community doing
25 is coming up with concentrations. The border patrol, they

1 aren't going to be separating background from some number.
2 If it's going to work at all, it's a concentration. How
3 much concentration of cobalt is acceptable; I mean there's
4 cobalt in the steel this country produces right now. It's
5 there. And so the international community from my
6 perspective, and again Cardell and Meck are much closer to
7 this than I am, they're pointing towards concentration
8 values per nuclides, and IAEA has put together tech
9 documents on this that are quite available.

10 Anyhow, I started out talking about the dilemma on
11 low level waste, and --

12 MR. GARRICK: And you ended up talking about the
13 dilemma on low level waste.

14 So maybe I should move on.

15 MR. LARSON: For your information, John, you know,
16 Envirocare Utah did request that their license be expanded
17 for B and C. The state has made a preliminary finding that
18 they agree that it's okay. Their rules state though, that
19 for B and C it has to be a public hearing. Public hearings
20 are underway. The counties have said okay, you've got
21 something here anyway, so we have no objection to the
22 situation, so the process is underway.

23 One of the questions before the State of Utah is
24 that before B and C can be licensed in the state, they have
25 to review the site, go through the whole process again and

1 that Envirocare can no longer own the site if they're going
2 to store B and C, because it goes back to the thing that the
3 committee looked at many years ago as to whether for
4 perpetual care it could be in the hands of private industry.

5 So it either has to be state or federal
6 government. But that's where Utah stands. And I think I've
7 sent to you the preliminary decision from Bill Sinclair,
8 from Utah.

9 MR. GARRICK: Well, that could be a very
10 significant event, if they indeed get a B and C permit.

11 MR. GREVES: Could be, but I would be a little
12 skeptical until the various stages proceed. As Howard said,
13 Utah has some, I don't know whether they call them hearings,
14 but I think they're occurring within the next week or two.
15 So there steps where this thing could get off the track.
16 There's a lot that has to happen before there is any license
17 to do anything with B and C waste out there.

18 Well, I'm going to move on for fear we'll get
19 further into this dilemma, unless you've got some answers to
20 those questions.

21 The last item that I wanted to address was some
22 international meetings, feedback, the most recent of which
23 was in Cordoba, Spain. I was able to participate and
24 Commissioner Dikus gave a keynote speech. I think Pat has
25 copies for you. I would commend that you take a look at

1 that. It gives a good background from the commissioner's
2 perspective. And also Ambassador Rich, he is the ambassador
3 to the mission in Vienna, gave a speech on energy policy.
4 It was a broad discussion. I would just commend you read
5 that also. I found it quite interesting.

6 Commissioner Dikus' focus was on the legal and
7 socio-political dimensions of radioactive waste management.
8 The whole meeting was really structured around the
9 convention on spent fuel management, and the management of
10 radioactive waste. So it covered pretty much all of the
11 issues in that convention.

12 It's been ratified by a number of countries, not
13 enough to make it a convention yet. And it's my
14 understanding that it should be forwarded to the senate. It
15 hasn't gone yet to my knowledge. And we're hopeful that it
16 would get ratified. We've talked to all the stakeholders
17 that we're aware of in this country, and it seems to have
18 general support. So it will be kind of a key mechanism for
19 us to keep an eye on, what's going on internationally in the
20 waste business. If this country ratifies the convention,
21 then we would be going to a meeting once every three years
22 to provide a report on where we are in satisfying the
23 principles of the convention and explaining what's going on
24 in this country in terms of radioactive waste disposal.

25 It includes both defense and civilian waste. The

1 Department of Energy would take the lead in developing a
2 report, but obviously NRC and EPA would also be
3 participating. So the Cordoba, Spain, was kind of a good
4 jumping-off meeting to lead up to the ratification of this
5 particular convention.

6 As far as topics discussed at Cordoba, there was a
7 lot of discussion of spent fuel storage, and there was, I'd
8 say it's fair to characterize, there was a consensus that
9 spent fuel storage is not a substitute for deep geologic
10 disposal. You can't stop there. You need to proceed with
11 deep geologic disposal.

12 My sense was that was an answer in the NES meeting
13 that we attended, when was that, in November last year; I
14 look forward to the results of that report, but I'm just
15 giving you a flavor of the meeting.

16 There also was a lot of discussion on deep
17 geologic; there is some progress in Finland and Sweden; and
18 the WIP project was pointed out as a sign of success for
19 deep geologic. There was a lot of reference to WIP opening
20 up.

21 There was a number of sessions on low level waste,
22 intermediate level waste disposal; difficulties in siting.
23 There was a session that focused on retrievability. The
24 international community has rallied around a retrievable
25 concept for high level waste, spent fuel and of course we

1 know that this was in our regulations back in 1980. But
2 this seems to be a central theme in the international
3 community, that there is a need to provide for retrieval for
4 spent fuel, high level waste.

5 Part of this is public confidence. There were
6 sessions on public participation. There was also a session
7 on clearance, and there was a visit to the El Cabriel low
8 level waste disposal facility. I see on your agenda that
9 you're going to go to the French facility at Loeb. I'm
10 butchering these pronunciations I'm sure. But I've been to
11 both, now the El Cabriel facility and the French facility,
12 and they're world class facilities. They do a good job. I
13 think you'll enjoy seeing them.

14 You know, there's a question, does it take this
15 much energy, does it take this much cost to dispose of low
16 level waste; I frankly commend both of those facilities.
17 They have a national program, they have a facility, they
18 dispose of the waste. There's a lot of confidence in it. I
19 think some of them are sensing some complaints about how
20 expensive it is, but I think if you ask for example the
21 French when you're over there what the costs are, I think
22 they're significantly less than charges down at Barnwell.
23 Because the Barnwell charges are more than the concrete, the
24 steel, the operation of that facility; they include a
25 surcharge that pays for educational expenses.

1 I tried to understand from the French what the
2 cost was, and I think it is a lot less than \$300 a cubic
3 foot. And my sense in trying to get that information was,
4 they were probably in the range of the Hanford costs,
5 something under \$100 a cubic foot. And of course there's a
6 lot of conversions you have to do in terms of meters, cubic
7 meters and activity, but you may check that while you're
8 over there.

9 Just to finish up, I have looked at your schedule,
10 and I'm please to see that you're visiting UK and France.
11 They're both destinations that we need to understand what's
12 going on in terms of waste management. They're key players.
13 I would ask you who you are meeting with in those two
14 countries. If Lawrence Williams is not on your agenda for
15 UK, if you can get him on your agenda to at least meet with
16 him, he seems to be my counterpart plus he has more
17 responsibilities than I do. So he's got all the waste
18 issues in terms of regulation in UK. And I spent a
19 considerable amount of time with him at the Cordoba meeting,
20 and he's facing all the same issues that we are.

21 And in France, Dr. LaCoste is the key point of
22 contact that we have as a regulator. And in his
23 organization, Olivier Burgeau is the key person who reports
24 to him that has responsibilities for regulating the types of
25 activities that I'm involved with.

1 So I just offer, if they're on your agenda, fine.
2 If not you might want to see if you could spend a little bit
3 of time or get some discretionary time in with these
4 individuals. They're the regulators in those countries that
5 I have contact with on a fairly frequent basis, e-mail,
6 telephone and when I can squeeze it in, a trip. I try and
7 spend time with these gentlemen.

8 That's kind of the end of the points that I wanted
9 to raise. I'd be happy to address other questions, and hope
10 you enjoy your trip to UK and France. I'm sure you will.

11 MR. GARRICK: Thank you. Any questions from
12 committee members? We appreciate your sharing with us these
13 international hints, because I think a little bit to our
14 surprise we learned a great deal on the last such excursion
15 that we took, and I think we'll probably do the same here.
16 Thank you very much, appreciate it a great deal.

17 MR. GREVES: Thank you.

18 MR. LEVENSON: I suppose we should ask whether in
19 the next year or so you anticipate any reordering of your
20 first three priorities?

21 MR. GREVES: I don't expect it. The message is,
22 you go to -- the meetings I go to, like the reg information
23 conference, basically that's a utility/NRR run meeting.
24 Clearly one-third of the questions that come up are a site,
25 and it's called Yucca Mountain, that sends me a message.

1 And when the commissioners speak, and yeah, they talk about
2 renewal, they talk about the new oversight process, and then
3 they talk about Yucca Mountain for another ten-15 minutes,
4 it's sort of a, kind of read the tea leaves. What are the
5 priorities.

6 MR. LARKINS: I think it's actually encouraging to
7 see that industry is interested once again in the waste
8 disposal area.

9 MR. GREVES: They have to be.

10 MR. WYMER: Did the issue of transportation come
11 up at all?

12 MR. GREVES: Again, you're talking about the reg
13 information conference, or --

14 MR. WYMER: Yeah.

15 MR. GREVES: I was only able to be down there for
16 my two sessions and sitting in on Dikus' presentation. She
17 talked about transportation some, and I just don't have
18 enough window on the topic. There could have been a session
19 on transportation. And I know there was one on public
20 participation, and every meeting that Bill and company go
21 to, transportation comes up in terms of what I'll call
22 public participation meetings.

23 So I just don't have a good read on what happened
24 downtown. It came up in the Cordoba meeting. It wasn't on
25 the agenda, but people raised the issue.

1 MR. GARRICK: The formal remarks that were made by
2 the commissioners, are they available?

3 MR. GREVES: Yes, they are available. Meserve's
4 speech was on the table down there, and there was an
5 announcement that Commissioner Dikus' speech would be
6 available shortly, so my understanding --

7 MR. LARKINS: Usually OPA puts those on the NRC
8 website. Plus the proceedings from the RAC is available
9 after a couple of months.

10 MR. GARRICK: Thank you very much.

11 MR. GREVES: Thank you.

12 MR. GARRICK: I think it might be appropriate now
13 for us to hear from Carol Hanlon, and get a little bit of
14 an update on what's happening out west.

15 MS. HANLON: As you all are very aware, there are
16 a number of interesting activities that we're engaged in
17 this year, and I thought it might be valuable to you just to
18 give you a little update. Bill Ramer had discussed the 963
19 rule-making. I think you're familiar with that. That
20 initially began in December of 1996 when we were evaluating
21 supplementing the existing 960 with a part 963.

22 At that point we did develop a proposed rule. We
23 had a comment, a session on that, and we conducted hearings
24 on that. Based on those we revised the proposed
25 rule-making, and we issued a supplemental notice on November

1 30th, 1999.

2 So subsequently we held a number of public
3 hearings in Las Vegas on two separate occasions, we had two
4 hearings. So those were conducted on February 2nd and 3rd
5 of this year, 2000.

6 The public comment period has been extended for a
7 total of 111 days. It's closed now, it was closed on March
8 20th. So we are currently as Bill said, in the process of
9 evaluating those comments, and revising the final rule,
10 revising the rule for the final, and we do expect to submit
11 that draft rule as early as April, 2000. NRC will concur
12 before the rule is finalized, and we expect that we might
13 have that rule available in a time frame of November 2000,
14 as early as that point. So that's the 963 status.

15 In addition, we're looking at the site
16 recommendation consideration report. That's a very high
17 priority, of course. Currently that's a two volume site
18 recommendation consideration report, and it's purpose is to
19 inform the public of the secretary's consideration on a
20 possible site recommendation, also to provide the basis for
21 public comments.

22 We have two volumes currently. Volume one
23 addresses the requirements from section 114 of the Nuclear
24 Waste Policy Act. That is information on the Yucca Mountain
25 site characterization and design aspects.

1 Volume two is a preliminary suitability evaluation
2 against 10 CRF 963, the revised siting guidelines.

3 Currently the site recommendation consideration report is
4 scheduled for release in November of 2000. That will be
5 prior to public hearings and a comment period which are
6 required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. And I think I
7 mentioned the associated comment period. We are on target
8 for that deliverable.

9 Responses to the comment which we receive on the
10 consideration report will be included in the site
11 recommendation report itself, if the secretary should decide
12 to recommend that site to the president.

13 There are a number of technical program documents
14 I think that you are familiar with, which do support site
15 recommendation and the consideration report, and later the
16 site recommendation. They include analysis and modeling
17 reports. There are currently about 126 of those, nine
18 process model reports and a number of site description
19 design documents, a total system performance assessment and
20 preliminary preclosure safety assessment, so those are
21 proceeding.

22 We have I think currently either four or five
23 process model reports that we have received, a number of
24 analysis and modeling reports, so those are proceeding.
25 They are available to the committee, they are available. As

1 soon as they are ready they're being put on the web, and
2 they're being provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

3 So the process model reports are directly, provide
4 the direct basis for the content of the site consideration
5 document itself -- excuse me -- site recommendation
6 consideration report.

7 MR. GARRICK: Is there an interim PSPA before TSPA
8 LA, or are they working on --

9 MS. HANLON: Yes, the TSPA SR is the interim
10 report. Between VA and LA. The draft of that will be
11 available in August of this year. And I think that you're
12 aware that DOE proposed in its November 24th letter to the
13 NRC to provide copies of all acceptable deliverables,
14 accepted deliverables, to the NRC to support the sufficiency
15 review, similar to the process that was used for the
16 viability assessment. And those documents are coming
17 through.

18 The next major document that you're very familiar
19 with is the environmental impact statement. The comment
20 period has closed on that. The last comment, hearing
21 comment -- comment hearing was held in California. They are
22 in the process of evaluating the path forward, looking
23 toward a final EIS to be released in fiscal year 2001. A
24 final comment response document will be part of that final
25 EIS. The process on finalizing the EIS is unfortunately a

1 bit vague right now as they develop the time schedule for it
2 and how they'll proceed, so I'd be happy to give you more
3 information on that later as they develop their final
4 strategy. And may I answer any questions on anything for
5 you?

6 MR. HORNBERGER: So you said, let's see if I got
7 this right. 126 analyses and modeling reports in hand?

8 MS. HANLON: In the end.

9 MR. HORNBERGER: In the end, so you don't have
10 them all.

11 MS. HANLON: No, that's the total amount that will
12 support the nine process model reports.

13 MR. LARSON: Do you have the list of those that
14 are completed, or is that on the web that we can -- if we
15 look on the web can we find --

16 MS. HANLON: I'm not sure if it's on the web or
17 not, but I could get you a list of the ones that are
18 completed.

19 MR. LARSON: Because the committee has indicated
20 an interest in having the consultants look at some of these
21 things as we go along.

22 MS. HANLON: Certainly. I'll get you a list that
23 are completed, and the schedule for the rest.

24 MS. DEERING: Carol, how many PMRs are done; do
25 you know?

1 MS. HANLON: I think there are either four or
2 five, Lynn.

3 MS. DEERING: Already done, okay, out of the nine?

4 MS. HANLON: We expect the rest of them to be done
5 about the end of April or the first part of May.

6 MR. HORNBERGER: You say there are about 30 of
7 those?

8 MS. HANLON: No, nine.

9 MR. HORNBERGER: Nine total.

10 MS. HANLON: Nine process model reports and 126
11 AMRs.

12 MR. WYMER: Do you know what the technical basis
13 was for changing the design of the repository, dropping the
14 backfill and strip shield?

15 MS. HANLON: I'm probably not the best one to
16 speak to you about that, but you know, Paul has been in a
17 couple of times to discuss it, and I understand that you'd
18 like him to come in later this summer, if he's still on in
19 June, and he'll be excellent to talk to you about the basis
20 for the design change.

21 MR. LARSON: The three presentations scheduled for
22 June are still on?

23 MS. HANLON: I have two, and I wasn't sure.

24 MR. LARSON: We got performance confirmation, DOE
25 presentation on stats and plans for site recommendation,

1 Paul Harrington, and development of a Yucca Mountain
2 guideline, part 63 --

3 MS. HANLON: Right, and Paul was not going to talk
4 about status or site characterization rather, but design,
5 yes. We can clarify that later.

6 MR. LARSON: Because I had heard that there was
7 some possibility that some of those things might slip,
8 that's --

9 MS. HANLON: It's entirely up to you. We are
10 available to provide you with speakers on those topics in
11 June or July. In July it gets a bit more difficult because
12 our people are more involved in the site consideration
13 recommendation report, but in June they're available if that
14 fits your schedule. They're available later in the summer
15 if they're not, and some of these things can certainly be
16 discussed with you when you come out in September.

17 Would you like copies of these AMRs and PMRs as
18 they come out?

19 MS. DEERING: A hundred and twenty-six AMRs?

20 MS. HANLON: They're fascinating, Lynn.

21 MS. DEERING: Does each of you want a copy?

22 MR. HORNBERGER: No.

23 MR. GARRICK: No.

24 MR. HORNBERGER: I think we want a library here.

25 MS. DEERING: We've gotten a few of the PMRs, one

1 trickled in yesterday. To Rich, it was sent to Rich, and he
2 thought it was the first one. But I know it wasn't.

3 MS. HANLON: Which one was that?

4 MS. DEERING: It was maybe a --

5 MS. HANLON: The ISM, integrated site model, was
6 the first. That was the first one, and we recently received
7 either three or four more.

8 MS. DEERING: And I can get them from the Yucca
9 Mountain team meeting. They get circulated and you can sign
10 up, but that's a -- I mean we could also get it directly
11 from DOE, but --

12 MS. HANLON: We can get them to you directly.

13 MR. LARKINS: Are these available in an electronic
14 format?

15 MS. HANLON: Yes, they are. As soon as they are
16 accepted they go on the e-net. The website.

17 MR. LARKINS: So we're not storing everything
18 electronically?

19 MS. HANLON: Yes. Just don't ever unplug the
20 computer.

21 MR. GARRICK: When ATOMS is in place are they
22 going to stop sending us documents?

23 MR. LARKINS: Yes.

24 MR. GARRICK: When is that?

25 MR. LARKINS: We're going to start transitioning

1 supposedly the first of the month, but we have a phased
2 transition plan, so we're not going to cut off everything.

3 MR. HORNBERGER: Saturday is the date.

4 MR. LARKINS: April Fools day.

5 MS. DEERING: So you're just notified that these
6 reports exist; is that how it will work, rather than get it
7 in the mail, you'll get a notice that it's available on the
8 internet?

9 MR. HORNBERGER: And then you can print it out on
10 your own printer. It will cost about three times as much as
11 distributing it.

12 MR. LARSON: Your own toner and your own paper.

13 MR. GARRICK: Now we know what you're up to.
14 Okay, thank you very much.

15 MS. HANLON: You're certainly welcome.

16 MR. GARRICK: Okay, we've got a lot of remaining
17 items to get through in the next couple of hours, so we'll
18 not transition into an ACNW report phase, but will --

19 MR. LARKINS: John, I'd -- you've heard about all
20 of the activities going on in the area, decommissioning.
21 Dick put together a report on that.

22 MR. GARRICK: Well, I want to hear that but I was
23 going to have that right after the break. I don't think we
24 need a reporter for that, do we?

25 MR. LARKINS: No.

1 MR. GARRICK: All right, let's take a ten-minute
2 break and then come back in here about decommissioning from
3 Dick Salva.

4 [Whereupon, at 9:50 a.m., the meeting was
5 concluded.]
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

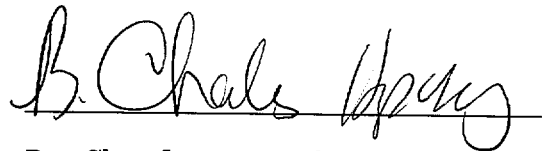
This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: 118TH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON NUCLEAR WASTE (ACNW)

CASE NO:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Rockville, MD

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.



B. Charles Hopchas

Official Reporter

Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.