

(The proposal referred to is as follows:)

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—NAS-NAE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BOARD

Proposal for Advisory Services to the Atomic Energy Commission Concerning Long-Range Radioactive Waste Management Plans and Programs for an Expanding Nuclear Energy Industry

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PROPOSAL FOR COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL ADVISORY TO THE
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

This proposal is submitted in response to discussions between representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Academy of Sciences concerning utilization of the services of the Academy in connection with the disposal of radioactive wastes.

If this proposal meets with AEC approval, the Academy would proceed with the appointment of an appropriate committee to review and advise the AEC concerning long-range radioactive waste management plans and programs for an expanding nuclear energy industry. This primary task would include the general assessment of the adequacy of the present and projected technology in relation to meeting long-range health, safety and other environmental requirements, and the identification of new research needs.

The general scope of the Committee, as stated above, may be modified or extended as needed by mutual consent of the Commission and the Academy. Specific studies would be undertaken on the initiative of either the Commission or the Committee following agreement of representatives of the Academy and of the AEC on the objectives of such studies. It is understood that the Committee would not be requested to provide advice on specific cases which normally come within the purview of the AEC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

The NAS-NAE Environmental Studies Board would periodically review and guide the work of the new Committee. The general concept for organization and operation of the Committee would be as follows: The Committee membership, which shall be discussed with the AEC, would include professional competence from essential areas such as health physics, chemical engineering, environmental engineering, meteorology, geology, hydrology, industrial hygiene, oceanography, and geological sciences. Where necessary *ad hoc* panels would be established to develop specific areas essential to the Committee effort. AEC will be given adequate prior notice of each Committee meeting and invited to be represented by one or two liaison representatives.

Throughout the conduct of its work the Committee would depend upon the cooperation of the Commission, its staff, and its contractors to furnish available information and data as these may be required. The initial orientation task of the Committee would be to become familiar with both AEC and industrial waste operational practices; plans for waste management and associated surveillance activities; and research and development programs. A series of briefings would be required, and it is contemplated that the Committee, or particular members thereof, would spend sufficient time at disposal sites reviewing the work already completed or underway on the various waste management approaches. The next task of the Committee would be to compile a comprehensive listing of various topics within the scope of the Committee's charter, that could be considered by NAS and AEC as additional topics for study by the Committee.

The Committee's report(s) would be furnished to the Commission for its consideration and any distribution beyond the AEC. The time schedule for reporting would be worked out with the Commission and the Committee in the course of the initial meetings.