

Recommendation 5

Given that the goal of a nuclear waste management program must be to protect Canadians' health and safety, short-term considerations of economy must not be invoked as an obstacle to achieving that goal. Consequently, the resources necessary for verification of the Canadian disposal concept must remain adequate until the concept has received its final assessment by the scientific community, and the public at large has either accepted or rejected the proposal.

Recommendation 6

The Canadian nuclear fuel waste management concept should be the subject of an independent comprehensive study, which would examine the social, moral, economic and environmental consequences of the Program. The Committee considers it desirable that this study be completed by no later than 1989. The resulting report would be submitted to the environmental assessment panel set up to facilitate a public debate on AECL's proposal.

Recommendation 7

Environment Canada should rapidly assemble resources with a view to defending the environmental standpoint during the upcoming debate on the Canadian Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Program (CNFWMP). Environment Canada should also take all necessary steps to encourage participation by the general public in the hearings held by any future environmental assessment panel.

Recommendation 8

The environment department of every province involved in or affected by nuclear production of electrical power should be a member of the Interagency Review Committee (IRC) which will be studying the spent nuclear fuel disposal concept.

Recommendation 9

Environment Canada should take over the implementation of the fuel waste disposal concept assessment process. In addition, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Environment Canada should within the next six months produce and publish a detailed plan on the mandate, the resources, the timetable and the powers of the environmental assessment panel that will be responsible for reviewing the results obtained by the concept's promoters.

Recommendation 10

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. should be able to provide the public with detailed and accurate data on the costs that would result from the short and long-term use of nuclear waste repositories. This cost-study analysis should also enable its readers to determine the present and future competitiveness of nuclear-generated electricity.

Recommendation 11

Environment Canada, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, should produce a cost-benefit analysis comparing the establishment of one centralized storage or disposal site for spent fuel wastes with the establishment of several