

October 23, 2000

NOTE TO: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

FROM: Elizabeth L. Doroshuk */RA/*
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - WEEKLY FSU STATUS MEETING, OCTOBER 18,
2000

Purpose:

The purpose of this note is to document the results of the weekly FSU Status Meeting, held on Wednesday, October 18, 2000. A list of attendees is included as an Attachment.

Discussion:

Gordon Fowler began the meeting noting briefly that the German organization GRS, has been working with SNRA of Ukraine in the area of PRA, but that Mr. Smyshlyayev, if given the choice would prefer to work with the NRC to develop PRA review guidance. Similarly, the Russians have become somewhat frustrated with the slow pace of European assistance. For this reason, it would be premature for the U.S., and more precisely the NRC, to curtail its nuclear safety assistance activities with these countries at this time.

Although the G-24 work will sunset, it should be brought to a close in a low key manner.

Jack continued the meeting with some discussion of support the group will be providing to Janice in preparation for her participation in the FSU and CEE donors' meeting in Vienna at the end of October. Jack asked for comments by Monday on the slide package made available to each of the group members, and promised to provide a second draft for Janice's consideration on Tuesday. Jack said that the purpose of the meeting will be to develop a list of projects that IAEA could fund, and that a key role for the U.S. in these meetings in the past has been to critically assess the projects that the group suggests IAEA consider funding. Therefore, it will be important to balance competing priorities, avoid duplication, and keep in mind what work the U.S. is funding in view of whether overall assistance levels are rising or sinking. Since DOE is expected to participate in the donors' meeting, and cover its programs, Janice will contact Rich Reister and ask Chuck Serpan to contact Jim Reed to discuss the agenda for the meeting.

Jack also raised the issue of future funding of nuclear safety assistance activities in the U.S., and suggested that substantial discussions will need to take place with DOE and DOS representatives in order to gain support for funding next year's programs. Jack also mentioned that several contracting actions have been held up in the office of ADM, due to other administrative problems, including the action to place a consultancy contract for nuclear safety

assistance activities in the FSU and CEE countries. He noted also that some restrictions on the kinds of activities that could be performed might prevent the NRC from funding work in Kazakhstan and Armenia. Janice advised Jack to make sure this problem can be avoided since planned assistance for performing work in Kazakhstan and Armenia will constitute the bulk of the work placed under this contract in the near term.

The group discussed the upcoming response to the Commission regarding issues identified in the GAO report, and noted that although the response to the Commission is due on November 15, the strategic plan associated with this work is not due until July 1, 2001. Janice pointed out that it would be best to begin work on the strategic plan now, rather than prolonging the inevitable, and directed the group to move forward with this effort. Gordon added that from his point of view, the strategic plan is needed sooner rather than later because it could substantiate future requests for nuclear safety assistance funding which are to be discussed with DOS and AID.

Jack noted that soon DOE will be sending its Task Force report on the Kazakh BN350 spent fuel storage question for printing. He noted that the political leadership vacuum will continue to delay a decision in Kazakhstan on this issue.

The group discussed the requests for briefings on nuclear safety assistance activities in Armenia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia and agreed that Donna-Marie would cover Romania and Bulgaria and Jack would cover Armenia. Chuck Serpan will be asked to cover Serbia.

Before concluding the meeting, Janice asked the group to begin to prepare material for a meeting with DOS and DOE representatives in mid November to discuss future nuclear safety assistance program activities, with the goal of meeting with Bill Taylor, AID in early December.

Attachment: List of Attendees

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|---------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| OFFICE: | OIP/A | OIP/A | OIP/A | OIP/A |
| NAME: | *EDoroshuk | *MCarter | *DMPerez | *GFowler |
| DATE: | 10/24/00 | 10/25/00 | 10/25/00 | 10/25/00 |

| | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| OFFICE: | OIP/A | OIP/DD | OIP/D |
| NAME: | *JRamsey | *RHauber | *JDunnLee |
| DATE: | 10/26/00 | 10/ 26/00 | 10/26/00 |

WEEKLY FSU MEETING

October 4, 2000

LIST OF ATTENDEES

1. Gordon Fowler
2. Donna-Marie Perez
3. Jack Ramsey
4. Mary Carter
5. Janice Dunn Lee
6. Beth Doroshuk

ATTACHMENT