

November 30, 2000

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

FROM: Elizabeth L. Doroshuk  
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - WEEKLY FSU STATUS MEETING, NOVEMBER 7,  
2000

Purpose:

The purpose of this note is to document the results of the weekly FSU Status Meeting, held on Tuesday, November 7, 2000. A list of attendees is included as Attachment 1.

Discussion:

Janice Dunn Lee began the meeting with a brief summary of the IAEA Technical Coordination meeting she attended in Vienna during the week of October 30, 2000. Janice noted that the meeting was very productive in that a list of FSU and CEE projects and their agreed upon priorities for the coming year was developed.

Janice provided the group with an interesting proposal made by the Swiss delegate to the meeting, Dr. S. Chakraborty, for a Center/Network for Nuclear Safety in Eastern Europe and CIS (CENS). A copy of this information is included as Attachment 2. Janice noted that she was favorably impressed by the entrepreneurial nature of the proposed Center, which might be located in Bratislava, Slovakia and funded initially by the Swiss with some international assistance, and later (after about 3-5 years) would become fee and membership based. This would require that the organization be designed to operate as a semi-independent, semi-commercial organization, which would have to actively seek cosponsors and clients from across the European Community.

Janice also mentioned that DOE continues to consider what the best approach should be for the Russian Core Conversion Project, and the question of how the U.S. can, in good conscience, support the continuing operation of these older plants for another five or ten years without certain safety improvements. Gordon added that neither does GAN feel these units can operate safely, but it will be difficult to continue to force the issue.

Janice informed the group that she would be meeting with Bill Taylor, AID later in the week. The group discussed NRC's accomplishments during the past year in terms of nuclear regulatory assistance activities in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Armenia, improvements that have been made for managing these programs at the NRC, and the AID funding provided for the work.

Based on these discussions, Janice indicated that she would request that AID consider making FY 2001 funds for assistance available in the amounts of \$1 million for Ukraine, \$1 million for Russia, \$500K for Armenia \$500K for Kazakhstan. She said she would also ask AID to begin to consider what FY 2002 funds might be made available, and would suggest that AID consider providing \$4 million: \$1.5 million for Russia, \$1 million for Ukraine, \$750K for Armenia and \$750K for Kazakhstan. Janice noted that the Ukrainian new fuel project, the Chernobyl Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP) project, and the construction completion and licensing of the Khmel'nitsky 2 and Rovno 4 (R4/K2), facilities are of particular interest to the international community. In particular, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is considering a loan for the completion of R4/K2 and is seeking assurance that the Ukrainian regulator will be prepared to perform the requisite licensing reviews.

Jack said that with regard to the SIP and R4/K2 projects, the Ukrainian State Scientific Technical Center (SSTC) is receiving substantial international funding, though the regulator SNRA, is not. Fifty of the 60 positions at SNRA are filled, but 10 are not. The EBRD has not provided funds to SNRA because it did not want to give the appearance of a conflict of interest. So SNRA does not currently have the capability to manage the licensing process for R4/K2.

Jack added that for the SIP project, involvement of other government departments in the review and approval process was not well planned, and consequently no funding is available for the support needed from these agencies. The group acknowledged that it would be best that if, in connection with approval of the EBRD loan for the completion of R4/K2, the Ukrainian government would agree to provide assistance to the regulator. But at this moment, it is not clear that there is a solution.

The group also discussed the ANS/ENS upcoming meeting in Washington and the panel discussion on international cooperation, suggesting several topics that Janice may want to raise during her participation in the panel discussion. Janice noted that she plans to emphasize the value of regional cooperation.

Attachments: 1. List of Attendees  
2. Proposal for Establishment of CENS

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OFFICE:	OIP/A	OIP/DD	OIP/D
NAME:	JRamsey	RHauber	JDunnLee
DATE:	12/7/00	12/8/00	12/11/00

WEEKLY FSU MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 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 1