

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M001220A

January 17, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE
FUEL CYCLE FACILITY OVERSIGHT PROGRAM REVISION
(SECY-00-0222), 9:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20,
2000, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE
FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC
ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff and a panel of stakeholders that included representatives of the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Union of Concerned Scientists on the status of the revision of the fuel cycle facility oversight program. The revision of the fuel cycle facility oversight program should proceed as planned. However, the staff should ensure that these efforts, and the resources associated with them, do not negatively impact full implementation of the recently revised 10 CFR Part 70 and its associated guidance.

As a separate matter in an effort to provide for more effective public involvement, the staff should examine the agency's policy on public meetings and procedures, to determine if revisions are needed. The staff examination should consider, at a minimum, issues and resources related to the following:

1. Provide all attendees with the opportunity to ask a question or express their views on the topic of the meeting before the public meeting adjourns;
2. Provide all stakeholders with timely responses to their questions and comments raised during public meetings;
3. Provide timely, clear and complete notifications and summaries or transcripts of meetings;
4. Provide an opportunity for people to listen and participate by telephone in public meetings, when requested and feasible; and
5. Provide access to documents being discussed at the meeting prior to or during the meeting.

The staff should ensure that reasonable checks and balances are in place to provide consistent implementation of agency policies on interaction with the public. However, the Commission recognizes that not all items listed above would be appropriate for every public meeting. In addition, the staff should consider conducting one or more public meetings to better understand any reluctance on the part of the public to participate in the regulatory process. The staff should identify potential actions to address issues raised consistent with the agency's policies as directed above. The staff will report the results of its examination to the Commission.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 7/31/01)

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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