

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M011203

December 26, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF STEAM
GENERATOR ACTION PLAN, 2:00 P.M., MONDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2001, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of the steam generator action plan. The staff should develop and utilize a "plain English" explanation that states how the new approach to regulating steam generators maintains or enhances safety and represents an improvement in regulatory effectiveness and efficiency.

The maturity of the nuclear power industry and the NRC have made it possible to move towards a risk-informed and performance-based regulatory structure. In particular, the maturity of the NRC's regulatory infrastructure associated with steam generators provides the agency with the opportunity to prepare for new technical issues and events in a proactive and disciplined manner, rather than a reactive manner. The staff should develop a communications plan that will enhance the NRC's ability to convey clearly and accurately the actual safety significance of steam generator events, if and when they occur, to the public and other stakeholders.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR