

December 31, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary **/RA/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-01-0162 - STAFF PLANS FOR  
PROCEEDING WITH THE RISK-INFORMED ALTERNATIVE TO  
THE STANDARDS FOR COMBUSTIBLE GAS CONTROL  
SYSTEMS IN LIGHT-WATER-COOLED POWER REACTORS IN  
10 CFR 50.44

The Commission has approved staff's recommended Option 1 to revise 10 CFR 50.44 to remove requirements for hydrogen recombiners. Staff should proceed with the rulemaking without preparation of a rulemaking plan. In the proposed rule package, the staff should explain to the public in more detail why installing passive autocatalytic recombiners for hydrogen control in all PWR reactors (as is being done in France) would not pass a cost/benefit test in the United States.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: Proposed rule 4/30/02)

Staff should provide the Commission with recommendations for revising existing guidance in order to implement a disciplined, meaningful, and scrutable methodology for evaluating the value-impact of any new requirements that could be added by a risk-informed alternative rule.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 8/30/02)

The Commission supports the continued granting of exemption requests for hydrogen control systems during the next year of rulemaking.

The staff should resolve Generic Issue 189 (GI-189) expeditiously and should keep the Commission appropriately informed as progress is made.

The staff should continue to emphasize clear communication with the public and other stakeholders as we proceed with risk-informed initiatives.

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