

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M051121B

December 19, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

Karen D. Cyr
General Counsel

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON THE STATUS NEW
REACTOR ISSUES, 9:30 A.M. AND 1:30 P.M., TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2005, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

In the morning session, the Commission was briefed by representatives of the nuclear industry, new reactor vendors, and a financial expert, on the status and projected schedules for submitting applications for Early Site Permits (ESPs), Design Certifications (DCs), and Combined Licenses (COLs). During the afternoon session, the Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of its new reactor licensing activities and the strategies the staff has developed to address current and future challenges.

The staff should pro-actively engage the industry on industry's plans for future applications in the new reactor licensing area. The staff should use industry's projections in ongoing efforts to prepare the agency for the review of these applications, including the efforts to utilize integrated scheduling and resource planning. The staff should continue to encourage industry's efforts to maximize standardization of licensing applications, designs, and construction activities by leveraging, to the extent practicable, such standardization in the agency's review efforts.

To support the increased interest in new reactor licensing, the staff, in coordination with OGC should examine options to accelerate the rulemaking schedule for revisions to 10 CFR Part 52, "Early Site Permits, Standard Design Certifications, and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." The options examined should include:

- expediting the proposed rule that is currently before the Commission, and
- creating and fast tracking a greatly reduced scope version of the current proposed rule.

The staff should provide the Commission with a discussion of the regulatory advantages, and time and resources needed for each option, including the need for and timing of public workshops, with the goal to assure that an enhanced and stable regulatory framework will be in place to support applicant preparation of potential COL applications to be submitted in 2007.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 12/30/05)

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