



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

August 10, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: *Renée Pedersen*
Renée Pedersen, Acting Differing Professional
Opinions Program Manager
Office of Enforcement

SUBJECT: DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINION INVOLVING
OCONEE PIPE WHIP RESTRAINT ISSUE (DPO-2005-003)

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform and advise you about an extension request that I received on behalf of William Travers, Region II Regional Administrator (RA) for the subject Differing Professional Opinion (DPO). In accordance with Section (D)(5)(b) of the Handbook for Management Directive (MD) 10.159, "The NRC Differing Professional Opinions Program," all routine DPO cases are expected to be completed within 60 days of acceptance of the issue as a DPO, and all complex cases within 120 days. In accordance with Section 10.159-032(c) of MD 10.159, the 120-day time frame for dispositioning DPO cases may only be extended with the approval of the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) through the DPOPM. I informed the submitter of the acceptance of this DPO on January 22, 2005. The Chronology & Status on this DPO from the July 2005 DPO Monthly Status Report is included as Attachment 1.

The Region II RA seeks an extension in order to ensure that there is sufficient time to thoroughly complete the remaining DPO activities. Specifically,

- ▶ The DPO Panel will consider the comments from the submitter (the Region II RA had no comments) and issue a revision, if necessary. Because of scheduling issues, the Panel notified me that they will not be available to address the comments as a group until the week of August 15th. I anticipate that they would generate a revised report (or a statement that the original report stands) by August 22nd.
- ▶ The Region II Regional Administrator will issue a DPO Decision (including a rationale for the decision) normally 10 days after receipt of the Panel's final recommendations (September 1, 2005).

I have reviewed the extension request (Attachment 2), the circumstances of the case, and recommend that you approve the extension request for the disposition of this DPO to September 1, 2005.

In accordance with Section (D)(4) of the Handbook for MD 10.159, I will advise the submitter if the time frame is extended.

L. Reyes

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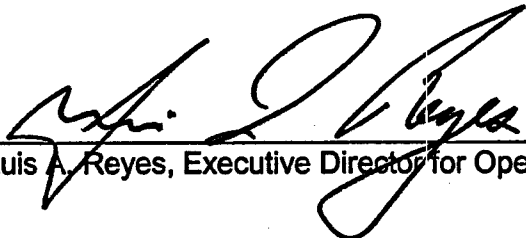
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information (415-2742, email rmp@nrc.gov).

Attachments:

1. DPO-2005-003 Chronology & Status Force-on Force Evaluation Criteria from July 2005 DPO Monthly Status Report
2. Email from V. McCree, Acting Region II RA: Extension Request for DPO-2005-003 dated 8/9/05

cc: M. Virgilio, DEDMRS

Approved: _____


Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations

8/15/05
Date