

January 27, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Vonna L. Ordaz, Acting Director  
Office of New Reactors **/RA Michael Mayfield Acting for/**

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER COOK AS THE NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION'S DAM SAFETY OFFICER

In conjunction with the creation of the External Hazards Center of Expertise (EHCOE) in the Office of New Reactors (NRO), the responsibility of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Dam Safety Program transferred from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to NRO. The EHCOE document can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (Accession No. ML16229A350). As such, the Director of NRO became the recommending official for the Dam Safety Officer (DSO) position. The DSO is responsible for ensuring that the NRC, as a matter of policy and actual practice, makes every responsible and prudent effort to assure the safety of dams that are subject to NRC regulations. Requirements to serve as the DSO are identified in SECY-91-193:

1. The DSO is appointed by the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) at the recommendation of the Director of NRO, and keeps the EDO informed on routine matters of dam safety.
2. The DSO reports to the EDO periodically on program status and has direct access to the EDO on dam safety matters, to the extent necessary to execute the responsibilities of the DSO.

As acting NRO Director, I nominate Christopher Cook to succeed Kenneth Karwoski as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's DSO. Dr. Cook has represented the agency both domestically and internationally as an expert on complex technical issues that are relevant to dam safety. He is also a licensed professional engineer in the State of Maryland. Given his background and broad understanding of civil engineering issues, he is qualified to represent the agency as the DSO. If you approve Dr. Cook's appointment, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which oversees interagency dam safety programs, should be notified. Enclosed is a proposed letter notifying FEMA of Dr. Cook's appointment as the NRC's DSO.

Enclosure:  
As stated

APPROVED: /RA/ DATE: February 3, 2017  
Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

CONTACT: Christopher B. Cook, NRO/DSEA  
301-415-6397

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER COOK AS THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION'S DAM SAFETY OFFICER DATED January 27, 2017**DISTRIBUTION:**

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OFFICE	NRO/ DSEA/RHM1: BC	NRO/DSEA: D	NRO: OD
NAME	CCook	SFlanders	VOrdaz (MMayfield for)
DATE	1/12/17	1/26/17	1/27/17

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