

## INFORMATION REPORT

March 5, 1985

SECY-05-81

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY  
TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENTS AT NRC LICENSED FACILITIES

Background: In conjunction with the FY 1985 NRC Appropriations Act, Congress required that the NRC conduct a study, to be submitted to Congress within six months, of the need for and feasibility of an independent organization responsible for conducting investigations of significant safety events including significant operational incidents, at facilities licensed by the Commission. Subsequently, responsibility for the study was assigned to AEOD. AEOD contracted with the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) to conduct the study.

BNL has forwarded their report (enclosed) of the results of this study. It should be noted that the time available for this study was severely restricted and, as a result, the assessment of the need for an independent safety organization is limited and is based heavily on the opinions expressed in various interviews and on the judgments of the members of the BNL Task Force.

Thus, due to the importance of this issue, the complexity of the report, and the need to fully understand the necessary actions and implications if the study recommendations are

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implemented, we believe it necessary to thoroughly review this matter before formulating a position and proposed course of action. We have also forwarded the study to the ACRS for their review. The above staff and ACRS review will take several months. At the completion of the staff's review, I will forward my comments and recommendations to the Commission for consideration.

Schedule:

We understand the subject report was sent to Congress by OCA.

  
William D. Dircks  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:

1. Contractor Report (Commissioners, SECY, OGC & OPE only)