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POLICY ISSUE (Information)

December 19, 1996

SECY-96-259

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STAFF'S PLANS FOR DEVELOPING A REGULATORY GUIDE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD REVIEW PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE FINAL RULEMAKING ON "ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OPERATING LICENSES," 10 CFR PART 51

PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission of the staff's plans for developing a Regulatory Guide and an Environmental Standard Review Plan to implement the final rulemaking on "Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses," 10 CFR Part 51.

BACKGROUND:

On June 5, 1996, a final rule notice, 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses," was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 28467). Public comment was solicited on several radiological waste and fuel cycle issues. The rule became effective on September 5, 1996. On September 3, 1996 (SECY-96-190), the staff submitted to the Commission a final rule notice that made minor clarifying and conforming changes to the rule published on June 5, 1996. In a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) dated October 18, 1996, the Commission approved the amended rule with the addition of the Office of the General Counsel's comments in the memorandum dated September 13, 1996, and with the incorporation of the changes provided in the attachment to the SRM. The staff anticipates that the amended final rule will be published in the Federal Register during the week of December 16, 1996. The amended final rule will be effective 30 days after publication.

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SECY NOTE: TO BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WHEN THE FINAL SRM IS MADE AVAILABLE.

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In the SRM dated October 18, 1996, the Commission also instructed the staff to develop a plan and schedule for the development of a Regulatory Guide and Environmental Standard Review Plan for implementation of this rule.

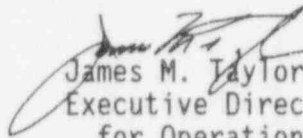
DISCUSSION:

Efforts to develop a Regulatory Guide (RG) and an Environmental Standard Review Plan (ESRP) for implementation of this rule are underway. Staff guidance on the review of license renewal applications is being incorporated into NRR's program to revise NUREG-0555, "Environmental Standard Review Plans for the Environmental Review of Construction Permit Applications for Nuclear Power Plants," published in 1979. The revised ESRP will cover the environmental review of applications under 10 CFR Part 50 and Part 52, as well as Part 54 applications for renewal of an operating license. These NRR activities are identified in the NRR "Environmental SRP Revision Action Plan." RES has begun work on the RG and is placing a contract with ORNL to maintain access to the team that supported the writing of NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," which provides the technical basis of the rule. These activities are being coordinated between NRR and RES so as not to duplicate efforts and to assure consistency between guidance to an applicant and guidance to staff reviewers.

RES plans for the draft RG to be published for public comment in July 1997 and for the final RG to be published about March 1998. NRR plans for the draft ESRP to be published for public comment in August 1997 and for the final ESRP to be published in August 1998.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has no legal objection to this paper.


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for Operations

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