

DSI-11

(8)

**From:** Michael Case  
**To:** WND1.WNP2.SECY  
**Date:** 11/4/96 2:07pm  
**Subject:** Strategic Assessment Feedback -Forwarded

Attached are comments on the strategic assessment report that were forwarded to me.

Mike Case  
415-1134



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**From:** William Burton  
**To:** MJC  
**Date:** 11/1/96 2:07pm  
**Subject:** Strategic Assessment Feedback

Mike,

I have reviewed Direction Setting Issue (DSI) 11 and have the following thoughts:

#### DSI 11: Operating Reactor Program Oversight

By all measures, the nuclear industry's safety record has been improving. This is a testament to the efforts of both the NRC and the industry to place plant safety as a top priority. As plants age, and as the competitive environment changes, new challenges face the industry. The NRC must continue to protect the public health and safety in the context of these new challenges and with the additional challenge of tighter budgets and fewer resources. Given these constraints, I believe Option 1 allows for the best balance between effectively performing our mission, meeting the goals of a smaller yet more effective and responsive government, and while allowing maximum participation and information exchange between all stakeholders.

Performance Assessment is critical. Not only assessment of licensee also of internal NRC processes. Because there will inevitably be new and unknown challenges to reactor safety, Option 1 allows the NRC to continue its effective job of regulating the industry while at the same time make constant improvements to how it does business (and do it cost-effectively).

Little was said in the paper about the role of events assessment and generic communications. I think that on-line events assessment, review, and information sharing with the industry (via generic communications) has proven to be an extremely effective means of ensuring plant safety. My concern is that as we proceed with our Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining, the role of events assessment and generic communications may be overlooked. I believe that these functions are critical to accomplishing the agency mission and should be given serious consideration in whatever discussions occur regarding rebaselining.

Specifically, I'd like the Commission to consider consolidating the events assessment functions that are currently spread between NRR and AEOD. The Incident Response Division and the Safety Programs Division of AEOD could easily be merged into NRR. This would allow for better coordination of both short-term and long-term event assessment functions and result in substantial cost savings.

CC:

efg