



OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 2, 1996

RELEASED TO THE PDR

11/7/96 *SKW*  
date initials

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: *John C. Hoyle*  
John C. Hoyle, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-134 - OPTIONS  
FOR PURSUING REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE  
PROTECTION REGULATIONS FOR NUCLEAR POWER  
PLANTS

The Commission has approved Option 2 to revise 10 CFR 50.48 and modify or remove Appendix R, and rejects NEI's proposed revision and the new Appendix S.

Performance-based and risk-informed approaches for fire protection should only be utilized where the specifics are amenable to such methods. Where PRA methods are considered, weaknesses in PRA methods and operational data should be identified along with ongoing research activities to address the weaknesses identified (if any). Since "uncertainty" is likely to be a major issue in any risk-informed and performance-based approach, the staff should explicitly address plans for dealing with this issue.

The staff should develop a plan (including milestones and schedules) for transitioning fire protection regulations to a more risk-informed and performance-based structure. The plan should identify the key elements of a transition strategy as well as the obstacles that must be overcome to make progress in this area.

Issues such as inspection and enforcement of such a rule should be considered in a manner consistent with that stated in the Commission's preliminary views on Direction Setting Issue 12 regarding Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulation.

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-96-134, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

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The staff should factor preliminary IPEEE insights-gained into rulemaking in this area. The staff should also address the legal status of the existing exemptions granted to licensees should the new rulemaking be adopted. Additionally, the staff should continue interaction with industry regarding the transition toward risk-informed performance based regulation.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: plan, 2/28/97  
proposed rule, 2/27/98)

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
OGC  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)