

Release



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

September 17, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Shirley Ann Jackson *Shirley Ann Jackson*

SUBJECT: NRC FY 1997 BUDGET

In a memorandum to the Commission dated September 4, 1996, Commissioner Dicus requested Commission approval of plans for U.S.-Russian Joint Coordinating Committee for Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER). The memorandum indicated that for FY 97, you could make up to \$500,000 available from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) budget to support JCCRER activities. I support in principle the revised focus of the U.S. JCCRER and enhanced funding subject to an explicit provision for NRC direct management of the research proposed under Project 2.3.

Before approving the specific dollar amount, however, I must be provided additional information with regard to how the proposed \$500,000 would be spent in FY 1997, and what tradeoffs are being made in the Commission-approved FY 1997 RES budget relative to the \$500,000 (i.e., where is the money coming from?).

cc: Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
SECY
OGC

A/71

K21275C

Memorandum To: Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus

From: Shirley Ann Jackson

Subject: COMGD-96-001

In response to the subject memo from Commissioner Dicus dated July 19, 1996, I would like to comment on the following:

1. Commission Consultation

In light of overall declining budgets, I appreciate the need to carefully consider resources for any future activities the NRC may undertake, particularly in the international area. However, I consider the nuclear safety activities proposed under the Gore-Mbeki Binational Commission to be a natural extension of a dialogue that began with visits of former Chairman Selin and Commissioner Curtis, which culminated in a signed regulatory information exchange agreement with the South African regulator, the Council for Nuclear Safety. Furthermore, the staff's proposed activities were initially offered in response to a request from the Office of the Vice President on how the NRC might be involved in the Gore-Mbeki Commission.

As a general matter, I believe the Commission needs to give staff sufficient flexibility to define the types of assistance in which the Commission may become involved in the future. In the case of South Africa, I believe it is a bit premature to analyze resource implications when the specific types of cooperative activities and the associated sources of funding are uncertain. Until we have an understanding of what the South Africans may want, need, or can afford, the impact on NRC resources may be difficult to determine.

However, I agree with the concern that the Commission should be informed of any commitments made having resource implications. I have spoken to Mr. Stoiber and Mr. Taylor in this regard and believe both understand the need to clear with the Commission any future activities especially those involving resource commitments, and in a timely manner.

2. NRC Assistance to Foreign Regulators

I have asked Mr. Stoiber to address the point raised by Commissioner Dicus relating to NRC offering training for foreign assignees without charge and to seek funding for their travel and per diem from other sources, and the perceived inequity vis-a-vis training and travel of Agreement States personnel. His response is attached for your information. Since the discussion of this matter pertains more to Agreement States issues, I propose that it be considered in the context of strategic assessment and

~~7702120107~~ 248

A/72

rebaselining. In this regard, I am prepared to fully examine the concerns of Commissioner Dicus and consider various options.

SECY, please track.

Attachment: As Stated

cc: SECY
EDO
OGC
OCA
OIP