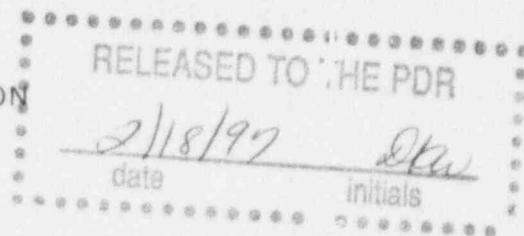




OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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

February 7, 1997



MEMORANDUM TO: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Acting Executive Director for Operations
FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary
SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-267 - FIRE
PROTECTION FUNCTIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

This is to advise you that the Commission has not objected to implementation of the proposed fire protection functional inspection (FPFI) program. The Commission is interested in strategies which would shorten the time for the benefits of this program to become available to all licensees and understands that the staff is considering:

1. prioritization of plant reviews so that the most vulnerable plants are reviewed first;
2. prioritization of the inspection modules so that the most significant parts of the inspections could be included along with other staff inspections; and
3. use of licensee self-assessments to relieve some of the staff inspection burden to the extent that the NRC can be assured that the self assessment is of good quality and accurately reflects the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Inspections of the assessment is warranted to provide this assurance.

In reviewing licensees' fire protection design and licensing bases, the staff should take into consideration licensees' response to NRC's 50.54(f) letter dated October 9, 1996 requesting design basis information.

Prior to starting the pilot inspections, the staff should forward the draft FPFI procedure and guidance to the Commission for information.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 3/7/97)

SECY NOTE:

THIS SRM AND SECY-96-267 WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

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At the completion of the pilot program, the staff should provide a report to the Commission which discusses the FPF1 program and possible plans for incorporating the strategies noted above or other methods for accelerating the benefits from this program.

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