

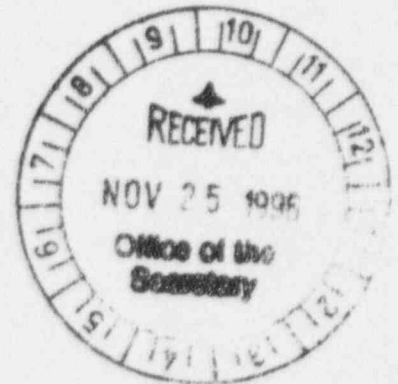


UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

November 21, 1996

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MEMORANDUM TO: John W. Craig, Deputy Director  
Division of Engineering Technology  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: B. Paul Cotter, Jr. *B. Paul Cotter, Jr.*  
Chief Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel

SUBJECT: NRC STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

In response to the request for comments on the Direction-Setting Issues, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel has carefully considered all of the issue papers. None of the papers appear to address the Panel's functions and role within the Commission directly. To the extent the papers concern the Panel's functions indirectly we found ourselves in general agreement with the Commission's indicated preliminary positions. The remainder of the issues discussed were either beyond the jurisdiction or the mission of the Panel. Hence, we offer no comments on them.

We shall continue to monitor strategic assessment development and make ourselves available for whatever service we might perform.

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