NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

FROM: CHAIRMAN MESERVE

SUBJECT: SECY-01-0077 - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION MEETING OVER THE INTERNET

Approved X Option 1 w/comment Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____ Request Discussion _____

COMMENTS:

See attached comment

SIGNATURE

May 25 2001
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes ✓ No ____

COMMENTS OF CHAIRMAN MESERVE ON SECY-01-0077

The fulfillment of the Commission's goal of increasing public confidence should involve a willingness to exploit new opportunities to encourage public awareness of the Commission's activities and involvement in them. Because the harnessing of Internet technology promises over time to facilitate public engagement with the NRC, I support the implementation of Option 1 as a continuing experiment. However, I would require a further evaluation to assess whether to continue the experiment after a further year.

The pilot program involved contract expenses of $51,450 and 0.575 FTE, for a total cost of $120,450.[1] In light of the fact that only 943 "unique" viewers either observed live meetings or reviewed archived meetings, the cost of the pilot was nearly $130 per viewer. In short, the pilot did not establish that media-streaming is a cost-effective way to communicate with the public or that there was a widespread interest in observing NRC meetings in this way. It is plausible that the failure of the pilot to attract more viewers arises from a lack of awareness of the opportunity to observe meetings in this way and perhaps from unfamiliarity with the technology. In light of these facts and the growing importance of the Internet as a medium of communication, I nonetheless conclude that the media-streaming effort should continue. Because the Commission has an obligation to be a careful steward of public funds, however, I would require an assessment of the activity after a further year to determine whether the circumstances warrant its continuation.

[1]The costs will be greater in any continuation because the continuation involves more meetings, larger monthly fixed fees, more staff time, and the additional cost for live closed captioning.

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER DICUS

SUBJECT: **SECY-01-0077 - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS OVER THE INTERNET**

Approved XX Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: See attached comments.

Greta Joy Dicus
SIGNATURE

1 MAY 01 9:36

5/15/01
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No _____

Comments of Commissioner Dicus on SECY-01-0077

I support Option 1, providing for the live broadcast and archiving of Commission meetings. While I understand the economies of only archiving meetings, the tangible and intangible benefits of live broadcasts now and in the future justify the rather modest expenditure in reaching out to the public with live broadcasts.

The tangible benefits demonstrated by the pilot seem obvious. Specifically, reaching an audience of approximately double that appearing in the live audience, with the internet audience apparently comprised of many persons not typically present in the live audience. High usage for such meetings as OAS, ACRS and NARUC indicated to me that this communications media may very well be bringing in a whole new group of public viewers to NRC processes. Intangible benefits could include such items as having local news media more accurately representing Commission activities, including the potential of reaching thousands of local newspaper readers and TV viewers.

Future benefits could include use by Commissioners and NRC staff telecommuting, participation in Commission meetings by individuals or organizations that cannot travel to Washington, and enhanced ability to get timely comments on Commission actions that would be consistent with our strategic goal of improving public communications.

For the foregoing reasons, I support implementation of option 1, and recommend having the EDO continue to monitor usage of the system and report back to the Commission on an annual basis concerning the use of the system.

gjd
5-15-01

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER DIAZ

SUBJECT: **SECY-01-0077 - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS OVER THE INTERNET**

Approved x Disapproved x Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS:

I approve Option 1.

SIGNATURE

5.14.01

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes xx No _____

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER MCGAFFIGAN

SUBJECT: **SECY-01-0077 - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS OVER THE INTERNET**

w/comment

Approved X Disapproved X Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS:

I approve Option 1 and concur in Commissioner Merrifield's comments.

Edward McGaffigan Jr.

SIGNATURE

May 15, 2001

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No ____

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD

SUBJECT: **SECY-01-0077 - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS OVER THE INTERNET**

Approved ✓ Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS:

See attached comments.

SIGNATURE

5/14/01

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes ✓ No ____

COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD'S VOTE ON SECY-01-0077

I am very pleased to see the positive support for broadcasting Commission meetings over the internet by the participants in the pilot study and I continue to support this and other efforts to enhance communications with NRC stakeholders. I believe that broadcasting Commission meetings live can significantly enhance our communication efforts by affording the public, especially those residing outside the D.C. area, an opportunity to stay immediately informed of issues addressed at Commission meetings. While providing access to archived tapes of Commission meetings on the internet would provide some of the same benefits, archiving falls short of providing real-time access to Commission meetings. Not surprisingly, the on-line survey showed that the greatest interest was in live broadcasts.

For this reason, and contrary to staff's recommendation, I support Option 1 (live and archived broadcasts). Although the resource implications are greater for live broadcasts, the additional expense should be offset by the over-all benefits to the agency of interacting with an informed public. There are a number of issues of high interest before the NRC today and many more on the horizon. I believe that it is very important to use the most effective technologies available to ensure that the public is fully informed of the Commission's activities. For example, if under the provisions of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act DOE submits to the NRC an application for construction authorization of a repository at Yucca Mountain, it will be imperative that all stakeholders, and particularly the interested residents of Nevada, have effective access to Commission meetings. By broadcasting Commission meetings live, all of our stakeholders will have real-time, equal access to public meetings held at NRC headquarters. As stated in the paper, these broadcasts will reduce the burden on stakeholders to travel to meetings, increase the opportunity for our stakeholders to observe public meetings, and potentially increase the public's understanding of Commission activities.

5/14/01