

December 10, 1998

MEMORANDUM William D. Travers

TO: Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-98-228 - PROPOSED STREAMLINING AND CONSOLIDATION OF  
AEOD FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission has approved the staff's plan to streamline the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) and consolidate its functions in other program offices. The lessons learned from the independent assessment of operational events must continue to be shared with the nuclear industry in an effort to improve the safety of licensed operations and to assess the effectiveness of agency wide programs. It is important that these functions continue with a degree of independence and, in particular, remain independent of licensing functions. The Office of Research should provide focused analysis of the operational data and not expend scarce resources on those operational incidents that are not risk significant.

The Director of Research should establish procedures for a mechanism to facilitate communications from the old Reactor Analysis Branch of AEOD directly to the Office Director of Research. The mechanics would be invoked when significant safety issues are surfaced or when timely decisions are of utmost importance.

The staff should continue to identify and evaluate changes that will improve operational management and efficiency of the reorganized AEOD functions as experience is gained and as NRC programs evolve. After an appropriate period of experience (12 months) with the new organization, the staff should provide the Commission any suggestions the staff may have for achieving further efficiencies.

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
OGC  
CIO  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG