

May 9, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON RES PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS, 9:30 A.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2005, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) programs, performance, and plans.

The staff should look at key areas where NRC can improve collaboration with international and national research programs on issues like low dose radiation analysis and consequence analysis.

The staff should ensure that NRC research programs are as realistic as practicable. Bounding analyses should be clearly labeled as such and the staff should explain why bounding analyses are adequate for regulatory decisions where they are used.

The RES staff should work with NRR to develop a formal program plan to make a risk-informed and performance-based revision to 10 CFR Part 50, including revisions to the applicable Regulatory Guides, Standard Review Plans, or other guidance documents.

The staff should reevaluate its contract management activities to assure that guidance to contractors is well documented and deliverables are specified in detail. Past performance information should be considered in making award decisions for agreements with DOE laboratories and other federal agencies, consistent with the current practice for commercial contracts.

The staff should continue human reliability research to help reduce the abnormal occurrences in the materials area with respect to misuse of radioisotopes and radioactive material in medical and industrial applications consistent with existing user needs.

The Commission is particularly interested in staff efforts to identify areas in which fire modeling knowledge needs to be advanced to support regulatory decisionmaking, particularly in the area of the significance determination process for fire issues.

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
DOC  
OGC  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG  
OPA  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR