

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M090811

August 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary **/RAI/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS MEMORANDUM – BRIEFING ON
RESEARCH AND TEST REACTOR (RTR) CHALLENGES, 9:30
A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009, COMMISSIONERS'
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on research and test reactor (RTR) challenges: streamlining RTR license renewal, including process improvement objectives, benefits, challenges, and short and long-term plans. The Commission was also briefed by a stakeholder panel on RTR license renewal: a representative from Oregon State University (OSU) discussed (OSU's) experience with relicensing its TRIGA reactor; a representative from Washington State University discussed the conversion of its TRIGA reactor from HEU to LEU and license renewal; and a representative from Purdue University represented the National Organization of Test, Research and Training Reactors (TRTR) and discussed TRTR license renewal.

The staff should consider examining the review process and request for information (RAI) process after the first license renewals of the existing backlog are completed so that lessons learned may be applied to a significant percentage of the remaining backlog. The staff should ensure that its effort to streamline the process and reduce the backlog will provide for adequate protection of public health and safety.

As the staff streamlines the RTR license renewal process, it should look for ways to accelerate the rulemaking to establish a more efficient, effective and focused regulatory framework, and inform the Commission of the resources needed and impacts on other activities.

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR