

November 4, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Mark A. Satorius
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Richard J. Laufer, Acting Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-13-0093 – REPROCESSING
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

The Commission has approved staff's recommended Option 4, the development of a reprocessing-specific rule in a new part of the Commission's regulations, referred to notionally as "10 CFR Part 7X." However, the continued development of the framework should be limited in scope -for the time being - to the resolution of Gap 5, "Safety and Risk Assessment Methodologies and Considerations for a Reprocessing Facility."

The staff should provide a notation vote paper to the Commission presenting the results of this limited scope effort, upon its completion, as well as recommendations regarding next steps.

In its notation vote paper, the staff should provide its most up-to-date assessment of the prospects for the construction of recycling facilities in the US, the state of Department of Energy activities in this area, and the staff's recommendation for the next phase of work. The staff should also consider whether its development of a risk-informed approach to reprocessing facility regulation provides insights that may be applied to other nuclear facilities.

The staff should remain cognizant of developments in advanced fuel cycle technologies and evolving national fuel cycle policies. This should include coordination and participation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, as appropriate in regulatory and scientific programs. The staff should also continue to participate and provide expertise in international activities involving reprocessing, such as the review and development of safety, security, and environmental standards.

The staff should inform the Commission promptly if a reprocessing application becomes imminent or the policy or industrial environment changes significantly with regard to spent fuel recycling.

cc: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
OGC
CFO
OCA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR