

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

FROM: CHAIRMAN DICUS

SUBJECT: SECY-99-227, "N+1 Resident Inspector Staffing Policy"

Approved _____ X (in part) _____ Disapproved _____ X (in part) _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____ Request Discussion _____

COMMENTS:

See attached.

Greta Jay Dicus
SIGNATURE

September 23, 1999
DATE

Entered on "AS" Yes X No _____

Chairman Dicus comments on SECY-99-227, "N+1 Resident Inspector Staffing Policy"

I approve in part and disapprove in part the staff's recommendations for modifying the resident inspector staffing policy. I believe there are significant resource and policy implications in this paper, and it is not necessary to make a final decision on modifying the policy until a better basis for it has been established. This is particularly true since we are transitioning to a new reactor oversight process.

I disapprove the staff recommendation to modify the N+1 policy for multi-unit sites at this time. I approve the staff's plans to provide recommendations on regional inspector staffing in June 2001 as part of its report on full implementation of the new reactor oversight process. However, I believe that the staff should include a recommendation on N+1 resident inspector staffing as part of these staffing recommendations. I approve the staff's plan to continue resident inspector attrition at the multi-unit sites until that time. However, the staff should not remove the FTEs from the nuclear safety portion of the staffing plan. Instead, the staff should report to the Commission how these resources can be utilized in supporting other program areas within nuclear safety if they are not deemed necessary in the area of inspection.

Since the FTE and resource planning assumptions in the budget did not consider the effectiveness of the new reactor oversight process, the staff should ensure that the basis for its recommendations on regional resources is established by actual data and should not be bound by the direct FTE figures listed in SECY-99-227. The staff should consider a broader basis than direct FTE, which is a figure that is closely related to the number of inspectors at a site, and should also account for all time not spent in direct inspections. This includes consideration of the importance of non-direct inspection efforts, such as maintaining inspector qualifications and training, leave periods, program requirements, rotational/developmental assignments, and necessary overhead such as travel and inspection preparation/documentation. The staff should provide a recommendation on increasing the regional resources available to respond to events and to provide plant-specific inspections. Finally, the staff's recommendations on regional staffing should be broader than the inspection area, and should consider all regional nuclear safety programs.