REQUEST REPLY BY 3/9/00

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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March 3, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

Approved. 3/8/00

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Stuart Reiter
Acting Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: BROADCASTING COMMISSION MEETINGS ON THE INTERNET

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Commission of the status of the staff's efforts to obtain the resources required to broadcast Commission meetings over the Internet.

In September 1999, the staff demonstrated to the Commission the media streaming capability and informed the Commission of the staff's plans to pilot test the technology at the NRC. With the technology being new to both the NRC and potential contractors, our initial contracting effort did not achieve the cost goals that we shared with you in September. While we are learning more about the technology and searching for additional economies, we plan to run a one-year pilot program to broadcast about 20 meetings over the Internet at a cost of $60,800 (of which $10,000 represents one time start-up costs). The staff estimates the pilot will be operational 30 days after the contract is awarded. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the technology during the first six months of the pilot period. The staff will track access to the Commission meetings and solicit comments. Results from the pilot will be provided to the Commission.

We will work with SECY to determine which meetings will be broadcast during the pilot, and will coordinate with SECY in announcing the broadcast of public Commission meetings.

If the Commission finds value in the pilot program, we plan to extend it and search for additional efficiencies to lower the cost. However, continuing the program will require the identification of additional funding through the Planning, Budgeting, and Performance Management process.

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