

NOTATION VOTE

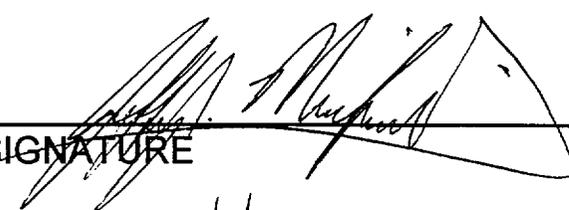
RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD
SUBJECT: **SECY-00-0010 - CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RENEWAL OF FULL-POWER OPERATING LICENSE**

Approved Disapproved Abstain

Not Participating

COMMENTS: *See attached comments.*



SIGNATURE

3/7/00

DATE

Entered on "AS" Yes No

Commissioner Merrifield's Comments on SECY-00-0010

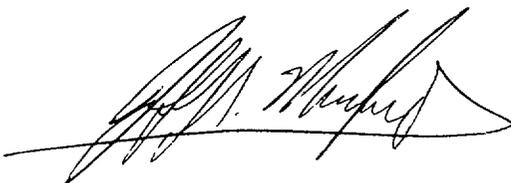
I want to take this opportunity to commend the staff for the outstanding job they have done on the Calvert Cliffs license renewal application. The staff should be proud of the way in which they managed the process, involved stakeholders, and conducted a thorough, timely, and disciplined review. While I typically do not mention staff members by name in my votes, I believe it is important to formally recognize the outstanding leadership that Chris Grimes has provided to this process.

I **approve** the staff's recommendations outlined in SECY-00-0010. More specifically:

- I approve authorizing the Director of NRR to renew the operating licenses for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 and 2 upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters.
- I approve authorizing the Director of NRR to issue subsequent uncontested operating license renewals without prior Commission authorization. The staff should revise the 1981 Policy Statement, "Statement of Policy on Issuance of Uncontested Fuel-Load and Low Power Testing Operating Licenses," to make it clear that the Director of NRR is authorized to issue renewed licenses in uncontested proceedings after a briefing to the Commission, if requested.
- I understand that the staff will make any necessary conforming changes to the renewed licenses as a result of any pending licensing actions while the Commission is considering the staff's recommendations.

As the staff develops more experience related to implementation of Part 54, I encourage them to remain vigilant in their efforts to involve stakeholders in the renewal process and to pursue further process efficiencies.

As I stated in my comments associated with SECY-99-148, I believe our license renewal efforts consist of two distinct and integral components: one consisting of the actual staff review of submitted renewal applications and one associated with building a regulatory infrastructure (SRP, GALL, inspection procedures....) to support consistent, effective, and efficient reviews in the future. Given that we are in the early stages of license renewal, it is imperative that the staff have the resources necessary to not only review the applications that are in-house, but to also promptly construct the infrastructure necessary for the effective review of future applications. Sacrificing the infrastructure component for the sake of completing our ongoing reviews in a more prompt manner would be shortsighted. The staff should promptly notify the Commission should it find that resources are insufficient to effectively carry out its license renewal responsibilities.



3/7/00



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2000

SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-00-0010 - CALVERT CLIFFS
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RENEWAL OF
FULL-POWER OPERATING LICENSE

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to authorize the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to renew the operating licenses for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental issues, as described in SECY-00-0010.

The staff should remain vigilant in their efforts to involve stakeholders in the license renewal process and to pursue further process efficiencies. The staff should promptly notify the Commission should it find that resources are insufficient to effectively carry out its license renewal responsibilities.

The Commission has disapproved as premature the staff's recommendation to authorize the Director of NRR to issue renewed licenses in uncontested proceedings without the need to seek the Commission's specific approval. The Commission will reconsider delegating this authority to the Director of NRR after several more plants have gone through the license renewal process and the Commission has resolved the generic license renewal issues to be addressed in the final generic aging lessons learned (GALL) report.

The staff should continue the dialogue with Baltimore Gas & Electric Company on the merits of potentially cost-beneficial design improvements and report to the Commission on the results of that dialogue.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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