

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary  
FROM: COMMISSIONER DIAZ  
SUBJECT: SECY-00-0035 - PUBLIC CONFIDENCE SURVEY

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved <sup>w/comments</sup> XX  Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

See attached comments.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

2.23.2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

-- REC'D BY NJD --

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## COMMISSIONER DIAZ'S COMMENTS ON SECY-00-0035

Of the three options presented, I prefer and support only option 3. Option 3 could augment the NRC's current initiatives to improve communication with various segments of the public on broad subject areas as well as specific activities. This approach can provide timely and focused feedback, at low cost, from members of the public who interact with the NRC. Feedback on whether the agency is communicating well (informing, listening and responding) should help the agency in its efforts to assure that its communication is clear, accurate and useful. I believe those efforts have added importance as the agency increases the role of risk information in its regulatory programs.

It is not clear that the agency would obtain any greater benefit from the limited surveys that are suggested under option 2 than we can already obtain through the use of existing and improved feedback mechanisms as part of the agency's activities. Moreover, even if resources could be found for performance of the numerous surveys that would ultimately be required under option 2, such initiatives should be postponed during this dynamic period of change for the agency. Fundamentally, I believe this is a period in which the agency must focus on obtaining and solidifying results from such projects as the revamping of the reactor oversight process and the handling of the first license renewal applications.

I also believe that option 3 is more consistent with the role that the Commission should assign to consideration of "public confidence" in the NRC. As I have long stressed, the primary indicators of how the agency is satisfying its objectives are the actions that provide reasonable assurance of health and safety and, whenever possible, reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and promote the agency's effectiveness and efficiency. By performing well in those areas, and by establishing effective communication with the public, the agency serves our national interest and should increase public confidence.

