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

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

June 30, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-044 - POLICY AND KEY TECHNICAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE WESTINGHOUSE AP600 STANDARDIZED PASSIVE REACTOR DESIGN

The Commission has approved the staff recommendation that, based on the impact of the uncertainties associated with the performance of passive safety systems, the AP600 include a containment spray system or equivalent for accident management (both short- and long-term) following a severe accident. Should future information be developed that would allow the staff to conclude that adequate bases exist to find that the containment spray system, or equivalent, is not needed in the AP600 design for the purposes addressed in this paper, the staff should inform the Commission.

The staff should continue to work with the ACRS to get a complete understanding of their concerns in their June 17, 1997 letter which noted that the design concept of the spray system as suggested by the staff is "marginally adequate."

The staff should continue to explore methods for dealing with uncertainty in applying probabilistic risk assessments (PRA) in a regulatory framework.

SECY NOTE: SECY-97-044 WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON FEBRUARY 26, 1997. THIS SRM AND THE COMMISSION VOTING RECORD CONTAINING THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.