

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

May 31, 2000

FROM: William D. Travers */RA by Carl J. Paperiello Acting for/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF MANUAL SCRAMS IN THE UNPLANNED SCRAM
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

In its March 28, 2000, Staff Requirements Memorandum approving initial implementation of the revised reactor oversight process, the Commission directed the staff to expeditiously report back to the Commission with a discussion of potential resolutions and schedules on the issue of including manual scrams in the unplanned scram performance indicator (PI). This memorandum provides the requested information.

The staff held a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other external stakeholders on March 29, 2000, to obtain additional information the staff should consider related to counting manual scrams. At that meeting, the NRC committed to use a formal process to consider, on a priority basis, an alternate PI(s) that tracks events in a way that minimizes potential unintended consequences. This formal process will include methods to obtain and consider public feedback similar to those employed during the development of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process. NEI agreed to submit a proposal for an alternate PI(s) for initiating events for the staff to consider.

In regularly scheduled NRC/NEI public working group meetings, the staff has held preliminary discussions about potential changes to initiating event PIs. The concept currently under consideration by NEI is to develop one or more indicators that count the number of events or conditions that result in a nuclear power plant changing power for reasons other than routine operational requirements. The details of how this can be accomplished are under development by NEI and are to be presented to the NRC at the next periodic public meeting between NRC and NEI on June 14. The proposed schedule, which has been discussed with NEI in previous meetings, is attached.

Attachment: As stated

CONTACT: D. E. Hickman, NRR/DIPM/IIPB
(301) 415-8541

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
CFO
CIO

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SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING
IMPROVED INITIATING EVENTS CORNERSTONE
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Draft proposed guidance for new indicator(s)	6/14/00
Finalize guidance	7/14/00
Collect data, establish thresholds, benchmark indicator(s)	7/17 - 9/30/00
Conduct pilot program and solicit public comment	10/1/00 thru 3/31/01
Analyze results and public comment	4/1 - 4/30/01
Make final decision	5/1/01
Train staff and industry (if needed)	5/1 - 5/31/01
First reports submitted with revised indicators if applicable	7/21/01