

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M000525D

June 20, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON IMPROVEMENTS TO
2.206 PETITION PROCESS, 1:30 P.M., THURSDAY,
MAY 25, 2000, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE
WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff and a stakeholder panel that included representatives of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and the Nuclear Energy Institute on improvements to the 10 CFR 2.206 petition process.

The Commission supports the staff's plans to make changes to the review process for 10 CFR 2.206 petitions, as described in the May 3, 2000 memorandum from the Executive Director for Operations to the Commission.

At the meeting, UCS agreed to provide the Commission with the details for one example of a UCS-initiated 2.206 petition in which UCS concluded the NRC did not address the main safety issues presented in the petition. UCS has submitted a letter dated June 1, 2000, identifying such an example. The staff should prepare a response for the Chairman's signature.

The staff should provide the Commission with its response to the significant stakeholder issues raised at the Commission meeting regarding the 2.206 process, including the conduct of 2.206-related public meetings, the role of the 2.206 process in regulatory decisions for the DC Cook plants, and the potentially new information relating to a recent 2.206 Director's Decision associated with fuel at the River Bend facility.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

7/21/00)

As the staff considers revisions to MD 8.11, either as a result of the May 25, 2000 meeting or in response to public comments received after the revised MD 8.11 is published in the Federal Register, the staff should ensure that it has the flexibility to conduct 2.206 meetings as the circumstances and facts of each petition warrant. The Commission intends that the staff exercise this flexibility to advance the fairness and efficiency of its public 2.206 meetings. To the extent that this flexibility is unclear in either MD 8.11 or MD 3.5, the staff should consider appropriate revisions to those management directives.

In Secy-99-070, on Implementing the Plan for the Public Communication Initiative, the staff stated that "the staff recognizes that the methods of communicating to the public, with clarity

and sensitivity, are as important as the content of the message." The staff should revise the management directive to emphasize that Director Decisions should be written in a manner consistent with the NRC's plain language and effective communication initiatives.

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