

August 2, 2000

NOTE TO: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

FROM: Elizabeth L. Doroshuk /RA/
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - WEEKLY FSU STATUS MEETING, AUGUST 2, 2000

Purpose:

The purpose of this note is to document the results of the weekly FSU Status Meeting, held on Wednesday, August 2, 2000. A list of attendees is included as Attachment 1.

Discussion:

Donna-Marie Perez agreed to begin the discussions, and mentioned that a summary of the technical information meeting between NRC and the Czech Nuclear Regulatory Authority held on April 25 and 26, 2000 has been issued. When asked if the summary should be sent to our counterparts in the Czech Republic, Janice Dunn Lee suggested that she read the memo carefully before making any decision, but that it may be best to allow the Czech Republic State Office for Nuclear Safety (SUJB) to publish its own regulatory decisions regarding computerized instrumentation and control systems at Temelin, without further influence on the part of the NRC.

Donna-Marie presented a draft memo for the Office Director's consideration recommending the disapproval of the Romanian request to participate in activities at the NRC as a foreign assignee. She also drew the group's attention to a statement in the Operating Plan stating that the NRC will seek sources of outside funding for cooperation with Latin America and India. Janice suggested that Donna-Marie work with Jack Ramsey to ensure that the language in the Operating Plan clearly reflects the need to consider what funding may be available before initiating new programs for cooperation with these countries.

Donna-Marie reminded the group of the upcoming visit of the Bulgarian Minister of Energy to DOE on August 15, 2000. She is preparing background information in support of Janice's participation in the meeting, and expects to provide this information to Janice on Friday, August 4. Donna-Marie is also preparing information in support of Janice's participation in a meeting of the G-24 this fall, and promised to provide this information together with scheduler details of the upcoming meeting soon. Finally, she brought to the group's attention the upcoming seminar on the U.S.-Russia Plutonium Disposition Pact to be held in Alexandria, Virginia on September 5-8, 2000.

Gordon Fowler continued the meeting with a summary of Ukrainian contract tasks that have been placed with the SSTC, and funds that have been obligated for the performance of these tasks. Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 6 have been placed, he reported, but NRR is late in providing its review of tasks 4 and 7. Of \$1.6 million recently available for performing work in Ukraine, \$1 million has been obligated. Gordon stated that he was optimistic that the funds for these tasks as well as for task 8 (yet to be received from the Ukrainians) can be obligated before the end of the fiscal year. Only task 5, related to controlling radiation levels at the shelter implementation project may need to be developed further and therefore, not placed before the end of the fiscal year. The balance of available funds will be obligated for the new consultant contract (nearing decision) and other near-term actions.

Gordon continued by summarizing the discussions that took place during a meeting with Riskaudit on Friday, July 28. An outline of the discussions is included as Attachment 2. Gordon noted that Scientech is working with Riskaudit as its single contractor for conducting work on the Shelter Implementation Plan. The Riskaudit representatives described the firm's past and current work in countries of the Former Soviet Union and Central & Eastern Europe.

Gordon mentioned that during the meeting with Riskaudit, Jack asked whether it might help SNRA if a meeting involving the donors evaluated the demands being placed on the Ukrainian regulator. Perhaps a board of international experts could be established to advise the regulator on priorities. No consensus was reached on this question at this time. Gordon mentioned that the tasks noted above address the most pressing regulatory issues facing the regulator. In addition, close contacts have been established with GRS which has worked with the Ukrainian regulator on licensing issues covered in task 1. It might be worthwhile to broach the idea during Jon Johnson's (NRR) trip to Ukraine in September. Janice emphasized that what is important is developing relationships with representatives of the donor countries in order to stay abreast of other ongoing nuclear safety assistance activities in Ukraine. She pointed out that it may be more effective to focus on the exchange of information during our bilateral meetings with the other donor countries.

Before closing the meeting, Janice raised the problem of the lack of response from EPA regarding the need for NRC support in carrying out the Murmansk spent fuel cask review and approval program in Russia. She asked the group to arrange a telephone call to Bob Dyer to help sort out their difficulties.

Attachments: 1. List of Attendees
2. Outline of Meeting with Riskaudit

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WEEKLY FSU MEETING

August 2, 2000

LIST OF ATTENDEES

1. Janice Dunn Lee
2. Gordon Fowler
3. Mary Carter
4. Donna-Marie Perez
5. Beth Doroshuk

ATTACHMENT 1