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SUBJECT: FINAL RULE: "RESPIRATORY PROTECTION AND CONTROLS TO
 RESTRICT INTERNAL EXPOSURES, 10 CFR PART 20"

Attached are advance copies of a Commission paper and a Federal Register Notice regarding the subject final rule. The final rule package is in the NRR management chain to be sent out for office comment and concurrence. These copies are provided to you so that a decision can be made regarding review by your committee. If the ACRS wishes to be briefed on this rulemaking, the staff will be ready to do so in April 1999.

This final rule recognizes new respiratory protection devices and procedures that have been proven effective, adopts new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) based on ANSI recommendations, removes several redundant requirements and results in NRC respiratory requirement that are consistent with OSHA rules published recently.

The attached Commission paper provides a brief summary of the changes. Note that because this rule reduces licensee burden and redefines adequate level of protection, the OGC has determined that this rule is not a backfit. The staff analysis concludes that there is no environmental impact.

The NRR staff recommendation is that this rulemaking does not merit a briefing before the ACRS and ACNW. However, if the ACRS wishes to be briefed on this rulemaking, the staff will be ready to do so in April 1999.

Attachments:

1. Commission Paper
2. Federal Register Notice

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*See previous concurrence

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