

February 25, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-98-289 - PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO 10 CFR PARTS 21, 50, AND 54
REGARDING USE OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCE TERMS
AT OPERATING REACTORS

The Commission has approved publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register for a 75-day public comment period and certifies that the rule, if promulgated, will not have a negative impact on a substantial number of small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 605(b).

It should be clear that this rule is not intended for relief from emergency planning requirements under 10 CFR 50.47.

The staff has indicated that numerous related applications were anticipated for such things as changes in allowable containment and ECCS leak rates and changes in isolation valve actuation timing. In light of this potential increase in licensing activity, in its final rulemaking package, the staff should provide the Commission with additional information regarding the anticipated agency resource implications, the priority given to license amendments related to a revised source term, and the anticipated impact the additional licensing workload will have on NRR's licensing action backlog reduction efforts.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 8/27/99)

The staff should continue working with industry and complete the pilot initiatives on an expedited basis. The experience gained from the pilots can then be used in developing the associated regulatory guide and standard review plan that should be part of the final rulemaking package to be submitted to the Commission by August 27, 1999.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 8/27/99)

Attachment:
As stated

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus

Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR
DCS

Changes to the Press Release

1. On page 1, paragraph 2, change the second sentence as follows: “NRC believes this change could reduce unnecessary burdens on many licensees without compromising public health and safety, reduce worker radiation exposure, and improve overall safety.”
2. On page 3, line 5 from the top, after ‘cost savings’ insert a new sentence as follows: “Improvements in overall safety are also likely, due to, for example, reduction in the loading of emergency diesel generators.”