

September 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-127 -  
DEVELOPMENT OF A RISK-INFORMED, PERFORMANCE-  
BASED REGULATION FOR FIRE PROTECTION AT  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

This is to advise you that the Commission has reviewed the subject paper and agreed on the following approach. The staff should finalize the current research and study by the end of this year, as noted in the paper. The staff should then obtain OGC feedback on the backfit implications and industry feedback on interest in a rule and present this information in a briefing to the Commission. The briefing should incorporate all findings, observations, and conclusions to that point, including, but not limited to, PRA and fire modeling results, fire protection functional inspection(s) results, IPEEE (fire) results, backfit determinations, industry interaction and comments, and other relevant information.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 2/13/98)

The staff should provide the Commission a schedule for expedited rulemaking.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 10/10/97)

The staff should expedite the resolution of issues necessary to formulate a proposed rule which will eliminate the need for most of the 850 exemptions granted under current rules and which takes a more risk-informed (as opposed to deterministic) and a more performance-based (as opposed to prescriptive) approach where that is appropriate and justifiable. However, the staff should not force-fit risk-informed, performance-based elements into areas that are not amenable to such approaches. In the development of the a fire protection rule and performance objectives the staff should fully consider and develop an

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SECY NOTE: THIS SRM AND SECY-97-127 WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

approach consistent with the current state of fire modeling and PRA usage in fire protection programs.

The responsibility for this rulemaking effort should be shifted from Research to NRR in accordance with the guidance in DSI-22. The staff should continue to coordinate additional research (performed cooperatively with industry, if possible) as necessary to complete any longer term items, or improvements to regulatory guidance in support of further risk-informed efforts. The staff should assess the current regulatory requirements so as not to eliminate current requirements that continue to be appropriate during the transition to more risk-informed fire protection requirements.

The Commission should be informed of significant policy and technical issues that arise as a result of staff efforts that impact the schedule.

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
OGC  
CIO  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR  
DCS