

August 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-99-178 - TREATMENT OF  
VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES IN REGULATORY ANALYSES

The Commission has approved the staff's plans to implement the revised policy for treatment of voluntary initiatives in regulatory analyses and to revise NUREG/BR-0058 (Rev. 2) accordingly.

The staff should ensure that this guidance facilitates consistent and predictable treatment of voluntary initiatives in regulatory analyses.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

5/31/2000)

In the interim, the staff should use the relevant factors discussed on page 5 of SECY-99-178 for determining the appropriate "measured credit" for industry voluntary programs. The staff should ensure that stakeholders are notified of the interim guidelines as appropriate. In addition, the staff should inform the Commission, on a timely basis, of safety problems and/or benefits of the licensee's voluntary programs.

It must be clear to the public that substituting voluntary industry initiatives for NRC regulatory action can provide effective and efficient resolution of issues, will in no way compromise plant safety, and does not represent a reduction in NRC's commitment to safety and sound regulation. The NRC and the industry are jointly responsible for the long term success of using voluntary industry initiatives as substitutes for NRC regulatory action. Licensees must effectively manage and implement their commitments associated with these voluntary initiatives and the NRC must provide a credible and predictable regulatory response if licensees fail to satisfy these commitments.

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