

February 12, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.
Acting Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-242 - USE OF THE
NUREG-1465 SOURCE TERM AT OPERATING REACTORS

The Commission has approved the staff's approach to allow use of the revised accident source term. The staff should commence rulemaking upon completion of the new source term rebaselining and concurrent with the pilot plant evaluations (Option 2). The revised Part 20 dose terminology (TEDE criterion and methodology) and the worst two hour methodology should be factored into the implementation of NUREG-1465 source term at operating reactors.

If needed, technically justified exemptions to facilitate the pilot programs should be considered on a case-by-case basis pending completion of such rulemaking. Actions necessary to evaluate the new source term for operating reactors should proceed in a timely manner, taking into consideration the safety significance of the specific licensing activity. The staff should exercise caution so as to avoid creating new severe accident mitigation requirements in the licensing of currently operating plants that do not have explicit and informed Commission approval. Upon completion of the new source term rebaselining, the staff should provide the Commission with the results and a rulemaking plan.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 8/29/97)

The staff should provide the Commission with a summary paper that details Commission consideration of severe accident risk, both in past regulatory decisions or rules and potential future actions (e.g., Station Blackout, PRA policy guidance, Regulatory Analysis Guidelines, steam generator rule, etc.). The paper should

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-96-242, AND THE COMMISSION VOTING RECORD CONTAINING THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

include a staff assessment, and recommendation if appropriate, for formalizing the agency's position on consideration of severe accident risk.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 5/30/97)

The response to NEI should be modified as follows: The next to the last sentence in the fourth paragraph (For example, it must ... is not diminished.) should be deleted.

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