

January 17, 1997

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

FROM: William M. Hill, Acting Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON SALP SYSTEM
AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS, 2:00 P.M., MONDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 1996, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the SALP system and assessment process.

The Commission urged the staff to continue to seek improvements in the processes used to assess performance and regulate the nuclear power industry. In a follow on briefing, the Commission requests that the staff consider and present recommendations for:

- 1) improving the timeliness of the NRC assessment capabilities, thereby enhancing the ability to identify declining performance earlier (e.g., Are SALPs effective in providing timely performance input?);
- 2) increasing the objectivity of the assessments by sharpening the distinction between the various SALP categories and defining when a clear transition is made between them;
- 3) more clearly distinguishing between acceptable and unacceptable performance;
- 4) methods to better integrate the available data;
- 5) incorporating performance information regarding maintenance of the design basis and operation therein into the SALP and other assessment processes;
- 6) increasing the use of risk insights in assessments;
- 7) simplifying the evaluation processes; and
- 8) using more active, direct language in the SALP reports.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 5/30/97)

The Commission requests the following statistical data:

- 1) How many Diagnostic Evaluation Team (DET) inspections have been performed and what is the trend for these inspections over time?
- 2) How many Augmented Inspection Teams (AITs) have been used and what has the trend been?
- 3) How many times has the NRC met with Boards of Directors concerning declining or poor performance?
- 4) How long was Turkey Point on the Watch List?
- 5) Provide an historical analysis of total inspection hours with appropriate breakouts (hours and percent of total) of the inspection hours spent for core, regional initiative, and generic safety issue inspections.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 2/28/97)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
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