

July 30, 1996

REVISED

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NRC  
INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY,  
MAY 31, 1996, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM,  
ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the staff on NRC inspection activities including the spent fuel pool licensing basis review, the FSAR inspections and findings, and the 10 CFR 50.59 review and action plan. As part of the Lessons Learned Report resulting from these and on-going inspection activities the staff should develop recommendations for improvement to the reactor oversight program, and brief the Commission before final decisions are made. In the context of these efforts, the staff should consider whether the regulations should be amended or guidance developed to clarify, in particular, the scope of applicability for 10 CFR 50.59, the FSAR update requirements in 10 CFR 50.71(e), and whether the "current licensing basis" should be defined in 10 CFR Part 50. There must be a clear delineation of which approach is most workable for the different requirements. The staff should ensure that the Action Plan clearly defines: (1) respective responsibilities and accountability of headquarters and regional personnel, including appropriate interfaces with appropriate senior management oversight, and (2) guidance for performing licensing reviews and subsequent inspections regarding execution of those licensing actions. The staff should also ensure that effective mechanisms are in place for regional and resident inspector input in the development of these recommendations.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 8/30/96)

The Commission also indicated its concern regarding the NRC's monitoring of voluntary programs or activities initiated by the industry in lieu of the imposition of regulatory requirements. The staff should develop and activate a procedure to verify that such voluntary industry programs are, in fact, being carried out. The staff should also inform the Commission of possible methods for determining the effectiveness of these programs.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 3/31/97)

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
OGC  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR - Advance  
DCS - P1-24