

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M930708

July 21, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary \s\

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING BY NUCLEAR
SAFETY RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (NSRRC),
2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1993,
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE
FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission* met with the Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC) to discuss the Committee's review of the NRC research program.

In response to Commission inquiries the Committee agreed that it would:

1. Keep track of the broad questions such as: Is the research program doing the right things? Are there enough resources to do what is being done? Are the skills of the staff and the contractor base keeping up with changes in the Commission's needs? Is the program staying ahead of the problems or is it trying to catchup to the problems? Are the skills of the Committee consistent with what the Commission is asking it to do?
2. Review the RES code program to determine if it is maintaining a "critical mass" of computer code experts at contractors and to look at the impact of spreading the limited funding among a number of contractors. The Committee should look at whether RES has identified the expertise required to maintain the codes, provide continuing world class codes, and the capability to respond to future safety issues as they arise.

* Commissioner de Planque was on travel and did not attend the meeting.

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3. Identify any "sacred cow" programs which should be closed out given limited budgets and higher priority needs, but keeping in mind the needs of maintaining expertise in unique NRC program areas.
4. Identify the technical disciplines the NRC needs to ensure that it is able to respond in a timely manner to present and future safety and licensing issues. These disciplines and the number of people required to provide a critical mass inhouse and at the contractors should be compared with available resources.

The Commission thanked the Committee for its efforts and indicated that the Commission would meet periodically with the Committee in the future.

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
OGC
OIG
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW (via E-Mail)
ASLBP (via Fax)
PDR - Advance
DCS - P1-24