



UNITED STATES ~~REPLY BY~~ 10/19/00
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

COMSECY-00-0033

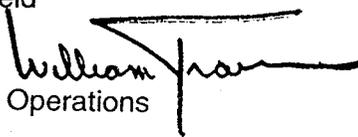
October 4, 2000

I approve.

Richard A. Meserve

10/06/00

MEMORANDUM TO: ✓ Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers 
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE THE
DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION PROGRAM

This memorandum requests that you approve my recommendation to discontinue the Diagnostic Evaluation Program (DEP) and that Incident Response Operations (IRO) discontinue management responsibility for the development and administration of Management Directive (MD) 8.7, "NRC Diagnostic Evaluation Program," and the associated Guidelines for Diagnostic Evaluations.

On November 24, 1986, the Commission approved a new inspection method (the DEP) in which a dedicated assessment team would be formed to review those cases where additional information is needed for management decision making. The management responsibility for this program was assigned to the former Office for the Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD).

In April 1999 AEOD was abolished, and the DEP was assigned to the newly organized office, IRO. Following the reorganization, the IRO staff performed an efficiency and effectiveness assessment of the DEP policy and guidance documents to identify alternative organizational/staffing structures that would provide adequate programmatic support for future Diagnostic Evaluation Teams (DETs). As a result, it was determined that although it would be possible, dedicating the necessary resources to assist in the preparation and conduct of an effective DET would place a considerable burden on the IRO staff. Thus, there were no dedicated agency resources budgeted for a diagnostic evaluation. If a decision were made to conduct such an evaluation, reprogramming of existing resources would be necessary.

In parallel with the IRO assessment, the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), issued SECY-99-007, on January 8, 1999, entitled, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements." This paper forwarded the staff's recommendations for a revised reactor oversight process (RROP) for commercial nuclear power plants that consisted of a framework that established seven cornerstones of safety. On March 22, 1999, the staff issued SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-up to SECY-99-007)," which forwarded to the Commission additional information on the concepts for the RROP, and presented the staff's plans for a 6-month pilot of the revised oversight processes at two sites per region. On May 17, 2000, the revised reactor oversight process was approved by the Commission in a Staff Requirements Memorandum, "SECY-00-0049 — Results of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process Pilot Program (Part 2)."



REQUEST REPLY ON 10/19/00

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200 OCT -4 PM 3: 10

October 4, 2000

Approved.

Greta Joy Dicus
Greta Joy Dicus 10/11/00

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers *William Travers*
Executive Director for Operations

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RECEIVED NRC 10/11/00
UNITED STATES
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

COMSECY-00-0033

October 4, 2000

Approve without comment.

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

Nils J. Diaz
Nils J. Diaz 10/13/00

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

William Travers

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RECORD BY HJD

ORIGINAL



REQUEST REPLY BY 10/19/00

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMSECY-00-0033

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 4, 2000

Approved.
Edie Goffigan Jr
10/6/00

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
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Commissioner Merrifield

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Executive Director for Operations

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URGENT REPLY BY 10/19/00

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October 4, 2000

Approved w/o comment.
[Signature]
10/10/00

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FROM: William D. Travers *[Signature]*
Executive Director for Operations

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