

July 31, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: SECY-92-225 - NRC PARTICIPATION IN WORLD USE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR EVENT SCALE

The Commission (with the Chairman and Commissioners Rogers and de Planque agreeing) has approved the staff proposal for limited participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). The staff should initiate limited participation on a trial basis to confirm that no undue impacts are experienced on NRC resources and no undue confusion occurs with existing emergency classification procedures. An appropriate announcement should be made and a suitable public forum or workshop should be held to explain the NRC approach.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 10/23/92)

At the completion of the trial period (2-3 years), the staff should report the results of their experience to the Commission with further recommendations, as appropriate.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: TBD)

Commissioners Curtiss and Remick disapproved of limited participation in the INES based on the potential for confusion with the existing classification mechanism for nuclear events in the United States, and would prefer adhering to the position originally taken by the Commission. It does not appear that any circumstances have changed since the staff discussed adopting the use of international event severity scales in SECY-89-266, that in Commissioners Curtiss' and Remick's judgment would warrant a change from past policy.

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-92-225, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
OGC
OCAA
OIG