

September 18, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: SECY-92-223 - RESOLUTION OF DEVIATIONS
IDENTIFIED DURING THE SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION
PROGRAM

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved the staff proposal in Option 1 of this paper in which the staff will not apply the General Design Criteria (GDC) to plants with construction permits issued prior to May 21, 1971. At the time of promulgation of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50, the Commission stressed that the GDC were not new requirements and were promulgated to more clearly articulate the licensing requirements and practice in effect at that time. While compliance with the intent of the GDC is important, each plant licensed before the GDC were formally adopted was evaluated on a plant specific basis, determined to be safe, and licensed by the Commission. Furthermore, current regulatory processes are sufficient to ensure that plants continue to be safe and comply with the intent of the GDC. Backfitting the GDC would provide little or no safety benefit while requiring an extensive commitment of resources. Plants with construction permits issued prior to May 21, 1971 do not need exemptions from the GDC.

The Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) should be closed. The staff should, however, continue the generic review of the SEP lessons learned and prioritize the issues in the Generic Safety Issue program.

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

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-92-223, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10

WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM