

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE  
REFER TO: M920117A

February 21, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

William C. Parler  
General Counsel

David A. Ward, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF  
IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY GOAL POLICY  
STATEMENT (SECY-91-270), 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 17, 1992, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE  
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,  
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of implementation of the Safety Goal Policy Statement.

The staff should review the criteria or method for reinterpretation of existing regulations. In particular, the Commission is interested in how such reinterpretations are controlled to avoid the imposition of essentially new requirements without the benefit of the analyses conducted on a new regulation.

(EDO/OGC) (SECY Suspense: 4/24/92)

The Commission understands that ACRS is in the process of developing an alternative safety goal implementation plan. The staff should await completion of this development before proceeding with further safety goal implementation plans.

With regard to the development of an alternative safety goal implementation proposal, as recommended by the ACRS, the staff should coordinate its activities with the ACRS to assess a possible alternative implementation plan and report to the Commission on this activity. The staff and the ACRS should incorporate into this plan the Commission's guidance on "adequate protection" and the Backfit Rule as contained in an SRM dated June 15, 1990. In that SRM, the Commission stated:

"The Commission believes that "adequate protection" is a

case by case finding based on evaluating a plant and site combination and considering the body of our regulations. Safety goals are to be used in a more generic sense and not to make specific licensing decisions. It is not necessary to create a generic definition of adequate protection, nor is it necessary to amend the Safety Goal Policy Statement in order to provide a direct relationship between the safety goals and adequate protection."

and

"In order to enhance our regulatory process for the current generations of plants, the Commission believes the staff should strive for a risk level consistent with the safety goals in developing or revising regulations. In developing and applying such new requirements to existing plants, the Backfit Rule should apply."

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 5/22/92)

Commissioner Remick requested that the staff examine the feasibility of applying the procedures of SECY-91-270 to areas other than cost justified safety enhancements, which apparently constitute a small proportion of the staff's regulatory initiatives. It appears that most regulatory initiatives are taken to obtain compliance with existing regulations (the compliance backfit). It was indicated during the staff presentation that regulatory initiatives that invoke compliance could fall anywhere in a spectrum of possibilities where it may or may not be appropriate to use the procedures developed by the Regulatory Analysis Steering Group.

Commissioner Remick would like the staff to consider the feasibility of using the procedures developed by the Regulatory Analysis Steering Group to compliance backfits.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 5/15/92)

Commissioner Remick would like to be informed of the results from the NRR efforts to rebaseline plant risk levels subsequent to implementation of regulatory initiatives that significantly reduce risk.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 6/26/92)

Commissioner Remick would like to be informed of the results of the staff's reexamination of the averted health effects conversion factor of \$1000 per man-rem and recommends that any changes be considered in a comprehensive context, such as the potential impact on current regulations and past regulatory decisions.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 6/26/92)



cc: The Chairman  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
Commissioner Remick  
Commissioner de Planque  
OCAA  
OIG  
PDR - Advance  
DCS - P1-24