

September 25, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: SECY-92-303 - METRICATION POLICY

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has disapproved the staff's proposed policy statement which would permit the English or metric (SI) units to be listed first depending on the system in which the original value of the parameter was derived. The policy statement should be revised to be consistent with the January 8, 1992 SRM on SECY-91-390 which stated: "The staff should modify the proposed policy statement such that the English units are provided in brackets after the use of the International System of Units (SI) since the SI system has been mandated by Congress to be the preferred system of weights and measures for U.S. trade and commerce."

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved the staff's position that English units should be used for emergency response communications and that licensee specific communications should be in the units of the licensee's system. The use of the vernacular for individual licensee communications is also appropriate since it is the spirit of the law that market forces should drive an individual licensee's choice of units, not non-safety related regulation.

The Commission Metrification Policy Statement should contain the following elements: 1) generic communications should be written using the convention of metric first followed by bracketed English units; 2) emergency communications should be written in English units; and 3) licensee specific communications be written in the units of the individual licensee.

---

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-92-303, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

Upon incorporation of the changes described above, the policy statement should be forwarded to the Secretary for publication in the Federal Register. The public announcement and Congressional letters should be modified, as necessary to reflect the changes, and issued.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 10/30/92)

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