

May 14, 1991

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M910424

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

William C. Parler
General Counsel

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NUCLEAR
PLANT AGING RESEARCH, 9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 24, 1991, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on nuclear plant aging research.

A briefing is scheduled in the near future on license renewal. The briefing should include a discussion of the role of aging research in development of the rule. The staff should address whether its approach to maintenance during a 40 year license period will provide an effective aging program that can be used to support license renewal. Preliminary results of an evaluation of maintenance team inspection reports suggest that the current industry maintenance programs may not be effectively managing aging. The staff should assess these results and address how this information is being factored into its recommendations on license renewal. The staff should also discuss why the structures, systems and components which are important for maintenance are different from those important for license renewal.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 5/21/91)

The Commission requested the status of issuing aging related inspection guidance to NRC inspectors, and whether we have an effective means of enforcing findings in the aging area.

(EDO/OGC) (SECY Suspense: 5/21/91)

The Commission requested information on how the staff plans to assure that the results of the nuclear plant aging research are made known to the industry for consideration in plant operation and for license renewal. It will take significant effort on the

part of all the NRC offices to work together to see that results of this research effort are considered in our regulatory program for operating plants and license renewal.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 5/21/91)

Commissioner Curtiss requested information on staff plans to provide for at least one examination to confirm the location of the anti-vibration bars as a result of the Mihama event.

Commissioner Remick requested that the staff provide the Commission with a status report on the efforts of BWRs to replace the 304 stainless steel with 316 nuclear grade steel. Commissioner Remick also requested that the staff provide the Commission annually a paper on the status of Research's programs on material aging.

cc: Chairman Carr
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
OGC
GPA
ACRS
PDR - Advance
DCS - P1-24