

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE  
REFER TO: M910612A

June 28, 1991

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 PROGRESS OF  
DESIGN CERTIFICATION REVIEW AND  
IMPLEMENTATION (SECY-91-161), 10:00 A.M.,  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991, COMMISSIONERS'  
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC  
ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the design certification review schedules and the potential items that could influence the estimated schedules.

The Commission requested that the following items be included in future, semi-annual briefings on the progress of design certification reviews:

- o an updated chart which breaks down the resources (dollars and FTEs) allocated and planned for each of the vendor reviews, and
- o details documenting the critical path and where each design review stands.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 12/20/91)

The Commission requested the staff to provide details in the forthcoming policy paper on the schedule impacts of separating the ITAAC from the FDA.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 8/30/91)

Commissioner Rogers requested that the staff explain in detail where the industry schedule estimates differ from those projected by the staff. Error bars should be included in the estimates in order to gain a better understanding of the uncertainties involved in the schedules.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 12/20/91)

The Commission reiterated the importance of ensuring that the design reviews are not constrained by resource limitations. New policy issues, the specific procedures to be used in the certification rulemaking, and any problems with the schedule should be brought to the Commission as early as possible in the review process (the October 29, 1990 SRM on COMKC-90-018 asks OGC and the staff to propose, in response to 10 CFR 52.51(a), the specific procedures to be used in the rulemaking).

The Commission noted that the staff indicated that it will be performing independent in-house analysis of design basis accidents for the evolutionary designs, the ABWR in particular, and will discuss NRC's analytical capabilities in upcoming papers to the Commission.

Commissioner Remick emphasized the importance of conducting thorough, credible, timely, and competent reviews of the new reactor designs. He emphasized the importance of demonstrating regulatory stability by not relaxing the review schedules unless significant safety issues are uncovered. He also encouraged the staff to seek opportunities to shorten the projected schedule, should industry submittals be received earlier than scheduled, and to conduct the best reviews this agency can perform. He complemented the staff's managers and reviewers for their exhaustive efforts and competence.

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