IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M001117B

January 4, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON RISK-INFORMED REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SECY-00-0213), 9:30 A.M., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2000, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan (RIRIP). The Commission noted that there was considerable effort remaining to develop a true plan. As the staff continues to refine the document it should clearly identify the priorities of the activities; the resources needed for the various activities; the tools that need to be developed; and the items that are critical path and have cross-cutting dimensions. In particular, the staff should examine the plan to identify and include missing items that should be part of a comprehensive risk-informed strategy.

The staff should refrain from the use of phrasing such as "transition to risk-informed regulation," and rather use terminology such as "move forward with risk-informed regulation to the extent practical." In addition, the staff should carefully examine the cost-benefit aspects of risk-informed regulation for materials licensees, where, in certain instances, risk-informing the process may be cost prohibitive and provide little or no additional benefit.

The issue of PRA quality remains a key consideration and, as a top priority, the staff should work with industry groups and other stakeholders to finalize the PRA quality standards.

In the next version of the RIRIP, the Commission requests the following additional information.

1. The staff should more clearly indicate how performance-based regulatory approaches will be integrated into the process of risk-informing regulations.

2. The staff should provide a more detailed communications plan. In particular, the emphasis on improving public confidence should be more apparent. The communications plan should better highlight the Agency's goal of improving public confidence as the agency continues to move forward with risk-informed regulatory approaches.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
CIO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR - Advance