

December 16, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: SECY-91-273 - REVIEW OF VENDORS' TEST PROGRAMS TO
SUPPORT THE DESIGN CERTIFICATION OF PASSIVE LIGHT
WATER REACTORS

This is to advise you that the Commission has not objected to the staff's activities to identify research needs for advanced passive reactors and has not objected to the staff's positions on reviewing the vendors' test programs subject to the comments provided below.

The staff should prepare a paper, as discussed in your memorandum to Commissioner Rogers on December 5, 1991, which provides thorough and thoughtful recommendations on the issue of requiring a full pressure integral test facility. If such a facility is deemed necessary, the staff should address alternative means of acquiring it. All interested parties should be contacted on this important matter, including other governmental agencies, such as DOE. The pros and cons for each option should be discussed, including the cost and funding considerations as well as the long term needs of the country and the NRC for the facility and its associated expertise.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 1/24/92)

The staff should comment on the ACRS recommendation that "General Human Factors Criteria," analogous to the "General Design Criteria," be developed as a means to prescribe NRC requirements in these areas. Also, the staff should keep the ACRS informed as the program described in SECY-91-273 is implemented.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 1/24/92)

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM AND SECY-91-273 WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10
WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

In response to Commissioners Rogers memorandum to the Secretary dated November 21, 1991, a series of alternatives are being prepared for Commission review which will provide possible options for the early release of selected SECY papers.

(SECY)

(SECY Suspense: 1/24/92)

Commissioner Remick commended Mr. Thadani and his staff on consistently submitting high quality papers to the Commission on the status of the advanced reactor reviews. He also commended Mr. Sheron and his staff for their foresight in identifying some of the significant technical issues which the staff and the industry will have to resolve prior to certifying the passive reactor designs. He encouraged continued close cooperation between the two offices.

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
OGC
OCAA
OIG
ACRS