



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 7, 2000

NOTE TO: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

FROM: Elizabeth L. Doroshuk /RA/
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - WEEKLY FSU STATUS MEETING, AUGUST 17, 2000

Purpose:

The purpose of this note is to document the results of the weekly FSU Status Meeting, held on Thursday, August 17, 2000. This meeting was limited to 45 minutes due to a previously scheduled meeting related to the placement of a contract to facilitate performance of nuclear safety assistance activities in FSU and CEE countries. A list of attendees is included as an Attachment.

Discussion:

Gordon Fowler began the meeting by updating the group on the status of multiple tasks being placed with the Ukrainian SSTC for licensing assistance activities. Gordon explained that a large portion of AID funds available for these assistance activities has been obligated and three of the four remaining tasks will be funded shortly. The last task is being finalized at SSTC. Gordon also mentioned that he and Donna-Marie Perez are continuing work on placement of another contract to facilitate the performance of this work. Gordon's first task will obligate a large portion of the remaining funds for Ukraine. Additionally, preliminary plans are underway to develop a workshop to be conducted in Ukraine with the assistance of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Additional funds are being made available for hiring interpreters.

Gordon reminded the group that he will be participating with NRC management representatives in the conduct of three separate activities in Russia and Ukraine in September 2000. Gordon plans to accompany Commissioner Dicus during her participation in the JCCRER meeting in Petersburg during the week of September 11 and will accompany Jon Johnson of NRR during meetings in Russia and Ukraine during the weeks of September 18 and 25. Additionally, Tom King and John Lane of RES will participate in meetings in Russia related to PRA development assistance activities. Gordon mentioned that country clearance cables for each of these visits have been completed, travel orders prepared, and invitations expected within a few days.

Donna-Marie continued the discussions by briefly mentioning the status of the G-24 Questionnaire and reminding the group that OIP management representatives need to weigh in on the question of seeking funding for possible nuclear safety assistance to Bulgaria. She agreed to meet with the Deputy Director, OIP to follow up.

Donna-Marie reported that one of two IAAs governing nuclear safety assistance for the CEE countries expires on September 1, 2000, and that OIP anticipates receiving an extension signed by AID shortly.

Donna-Marie concluded her discussion by briefly mentioning the status of nine country summaries she is preparing for the IAEA General Conference in September 2000. She agreed that the summaries should be completed by August 31, though not necessarily including all of the information identified in the new format. The group noted that though the information that will be included in the new format will be an excellent resource for all of the NRC staff when made available on the internal web, it is difficult to compile this information in advance of the IAEA General Conference.

Jack Ramsey continued the meeting, noting that a panel discussion on Soviet-designed reactors is planned during the ANS/ENS meeting to be held in Washington in November. Jack mentioned that Jim Turner plans to participate and recommended that an NRC representative agree to participate as well.

Jack discussed a recent request for nuclear safety assistance received from Kazakhstan. The request will need to be carefully considered he said, because there are no technically competent organizations in Kazakhstan that have not already worked with DOE. And since there are only about twenty people in the regulatory organization in Kazakhstan, outside assistance is critical. It is not immediately clear how this should be accomplished. Gordon suggested that regulatory representatives of other FSU/CEE countries might be helpful. Because Kazakhstan utilizes the BN350 design which is not familiar technology in the U.S., the need for Russian involvement seems to be a foregone conclusion. The fact that only one institute in the world has expertise related to the BN350 design is problematic.

Jack mentioned that he will be supporting the international Chernobyl SIP program, and plans to attend the next meeting of experts in early November. Since he expects that the effort will involve the consideration of waste management issues, he requested buy in for tapping waste experts in NMSS.

Jack briefly mentioned a conversation he had with Pete Planchon of Argonne West regarding the decommissioning study for Kazakhstan. Based on his conversation, Jack understands that Argonne West may put something in their proposal to DOE that would call for some NRC involvement. It is interesting to note that on the safety side we have successfully hinted to DOE that the NRC needs to be involved in regulatory assistance activities, but not so on the safeguards side.

Jack reminded the group that the FSU nuclear safety assistance funds reprogramming request is being prepared for signature by the Division of Contracts representative Sharon Stewart in the Office of ADM. He mentioned an additional administrative item related to the level of travel funds typically reserved at the end of the fiscal year and said that he understands it may be increased from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000. Jack and Donna-Marie said they would not favor this change.

Finally, in response to a question about the country clearance cable for his trip to Kazakhstan, Jack explained that since the meeting he plans to attend is considered to be a technical meeting, in the past the meeting participants have not named someone as head of delegation. After completion of the final report in October or November of this year, high level DOE representatives may participate in a final meeting in Kazakhstan. Jack explained that DOE is the lead for the U.S. in preparing the decommissioning report, and the NRC is participating. It is not clear whether the final report is to be considered as a DOE report or a U.S. report. Since NRC representatives have disagreed with DOE representatives on some of the issues, the answer to this question is of interest, and may have an impact on the recommendations in the final report. Jack noted that our uncertainty regarding the issues stems in part from the fact that NRC representatives have not been invited to NSC meetings on nonproliferation matters for some time.

Attachment: List of Attendees

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~~ATL 003748321~~

WEEKLY FSU MEETING

August 17, 2000

LIST OF ATTENDEES

1. **Gordon Fowler**
2. **Donna-Marie Perez**
3. **Jack Ramsey**
4. **Beth Doroshuk**

ATTACHMENT