

October 25, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: SECY-91-229 - SEVERE ACCIDENT MITIGATION DESIGN  
ALTERNATIVES FOR CERTIFIED STANDARD DESIGNS

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved:

- (1) The staff's recommendation to address severe accident mitigation design alternatives for certified designs in a single rulemaking process that would consider both the 10 CFR 50.34(f) and the NEPA requirements in the 10 CFR Part 52 design certification rulemaking.
- (2) The staff's approach for considering the costs and benefits associated with the review of the severe accident design alternatives for the standard plant design certifications.
- (3) The staff proposal to advise applicants for design certification that they will be required to assess severe accident mitigation design alternatives and the applicable decision rationale as to why they will or will not benefit the safety of their designs.

The Commission expressed a desire to be kept informed of the staff progress in defining "remote and speculative" as it reviews the ABWR submissions.

Commissioner Curtiss believes that a parallel rulemaking, similar to that which was undertaken in the license renewal area, to identify and settle those aspects of the SAMDA issue that can be dealt with generically holds the potential for efficiently and

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SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-91-229, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF THE CHAIRMAN, AND COMMISSIONERS ROGERS, CURTISS AND REMICK WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

effectively settling significant NEPA-SAMDA issues in a single rulemaking proceeding. As such, Commissioner Curtiss requests that the staff --

1. provide a more detailed assessment and identification of the NEPA-SAMDA issues, if any, that might lend themselves to generic resolution;
2. provide an estimate of the agency resources that would be required to pursue Alternative 2 for any NEPA-SAMDA issues that can be resolved on a generic basis; and
3. advise the Commission, on the basis of that more detailed assessment, as to whether it would be worthwhile to commit such resources to the parallel environmental rulemaking reflected in Alternative 2.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 11/17/91)

cc: The Chairman  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
Commissioner Remick  
OGC  
GPA  
OIG