

May 30, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director /RA/
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: TWO IAEA MEETINGS AT NRC IN NOVEMBER 2001

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Commission of two IAEA activities scheduled at NRC Headquarters. No Commission action is necessary.

NRC staff will host two activities in IAEA's 2001 program during the week of November 5. The activities are scheduled for the same week to allow some useful interactions.

The first is a Technical Committee Meeting (TCM) on "Risk-Informed Decision Making." It will provide a comprehensive review of current national experience and practices in using the insights from Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) studies in making safety decisions. The information developed will provide guidance on how to use PSA for risk-informed decisions within a regulatory oversight process. The TCM results will be used as input to a follow-on meeting to prepare an IAEA TECDOC on "Risk-Informed" Decision Making. Arrangements for the TCM will be coordinated by RES. Both RES and NRR staff will participate by describing NRC's use of risk analysis information to assist regulatory decisions. Some 50 to 75 persons are expected to attend. A list of the IAEA Member States being invited to the meeting is attached. Travel expenses are the responsibility of nominating Member States and the IAEA.

The second activity is a visit by East European regulators to learn first-hand about NRC's Reactor Oversight Program (ROP). The activity was conceived two years ago with a focus on NRC's application of the SALP methodology, but was delayed at NRC's request to allow the new oversight process to replace SALP, and to mature. As it now stands, a party of ten senior regulators, at the level of chief or deputy chief nuclear regulator, or head of inspection branch, will be invited to visit the U.S. to learn the policy, development and implementation of the NRC Oversight Program. Invitations will go to East European countries operating nuclear power plants (Armenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine). The program will include opening and closing discussions at NRC

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Headquarters with NRR and RES staff, a visit to an NRC Regional Office, and a visit to a nuclear power plant for discussions with the NRC resident staff and nuclear power plant management. Travel and local expenses for the regulators and accompanying IAEA staff will be borne by the IAEA. NRR will organize the visit to a Region and reactor site (yet to be determined). The Office of International Programs will provide overall coordination with the EDO and the Program Offices.

OIP will consult with the Chairman and Commissioners separately on a possible representation event in honor of the visitors.

Attachment: List of Member States to be invited to the Technical Committee Meeting

cc: SECY
OGC
EDO
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