ComSecy-01-0037
8712

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

December 20, 2001

No objection
12/27/01

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

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: CSN REQUEST FOR NRR SUPPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-INFORMED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Background:

Mr. Villadóniga of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) has requested support from NRR to help in a pilot effort to use risk-informed inspections in the Spanish regulatory program. As you know, CSN is considering modifying its regulatory inspection practices to make them more "risk informed" and closer to the new NRC reactor oversight process. CSN is adapting NRC inspection procedures for use in its pilot inspection activity.

Specifically, CSN would like the assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process, including inspections. These inspectors would be invited to Spain in the January-March timeframe to participate in a two-day seminar in Madrid and then to observe and provide comments on NRC experiences during a two-day pilot inspection at the ASCO nuclear power plant, near Barcelona, covering up to four inspection procedures. The seminar is being organized by CSN consultants, including someone from Brookhaven National Laboratory, to address overall concepts, the methods and approaches used for risk-informed inspection activities, inspection procedures, and the risk insights relevant to selected inspection areas. The pilot inspection, following the seminar, will be announced to the licensee as a pilot and will not be part of CSN's oversight of the plant.

At the seminar, the NRC inspectors would be asked to make three or four presentations to discuss specific, hands-on experience that the NRC has gained in performing risk informed inspections at nuclear power plants in the U.S. During the pilot inspection, the NRC inspectors would be asked to observe CSN inspectors as they apply up to four inspection procedures used in the U.S. and as they evaluate their findings using the Significance Determination Process. The NRC inspectors would only answer CSN questions on their application of risk-informed techniques and processes compared to NRC experience, but would have no formal role in the inspection and evaluation pilot activity and would not form conclusions or make statements.

CONTACT: Suzanne McGuire, OIP
415-3433

REQUEST REPLIED 1/9

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

Approve with comment.

December 20, 2001

Greta Joy Dicus 1/08/02

COMSECY-01-0037

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

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: CSN REQUEST FOR NRR SUPPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-INFORMED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Background:

Mr. Villadóniga of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) has requested support from NRR to help in a pilot effort to use risk-informed inspections in the Spanish regulatory program. As you know, CSN is considering modifying its regulatory inspection practices to make them more "risk informed" and closer to the new NRC reactor oversight process. CSN is adapting NRC inspection procedures for use in its pilot inspection activity.

Specifically, CSN would like the assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process, including inspections. These inspectors would be invited to Spain in the January-March timeframe to participate in a two-day seminar in Madrid and then to observe and provide comments on NRC experiences during a two-day pilot inspection at the ASCO nuclear power plant, near Barcelona, covering up to four inspection procedures. The seminar is being organized by CSN consultants, including someone from Brookhaven National Laboratory, to address overall concepts, the methods and approaches used for risk-informed inspection activities, inspection procedures, and the risk insights relevant to selected inspection areas. The pilot inspection, following the seminar, will be announced to the licensee as a pilot and will not be part of CSN's oversight of the plant.

At the seminar, the NRC inspectors would be asked to make three or four presentations to discuss specific, hands-on experience that the NRC has gained in performing risk informed inspections at nuclear power plants in the U.S. During the pilot inspection, the NRC inspectors would be asked to observe CSN inspectors as they apply up to four inspection procedures used in the U.S. and as they evaluate their findings using the Significance Determination Process. The NRC inspectors would only answer CSN questions on their application of risk-informed techniques and processes compared to NRC experience, but would have no formal role in the inspection and evaluation pilot activity and would not form conclusions or make statements.

CONTACT: Suzanne McGuire, OIP
415-3433

26 DEC 01 9:14

Recommendation:

I recommend that we support the CSN request. NRR believes two experienced inspectors can be identified to carry out this assistance. By helping CNS, we will enhance relations under our bilateral Arrangement, continue the reactor regulation dialogue of the July 2001 visit of Ms. Mellado and Mr. Garcia, and build on the successful meeting between Chairman Meserve and the CSN, in Madrid in October 2001.

I will work with NRR to assure that the inspectors representing NRC are fully briefed on the policy context, and with full understanding that they are working with the Spanish regulator and not their licensee. In addition, the importance of avoiding any appearance of making regulatory judgments on behalf of the CSN will be emphasized. If appropriate, we could also have the inspectors visit Headquarters before leaving for Spain to receive further guidance in such matters.

Barring no objection from the Commission, the staff will plan to accept the invitation from CSN to participate in the project activities as outlined. SECY please track.

Coordination:

The EDO concurs on this Memorandum.

cc:
SECY
OPA
OGC
OIG
OCA
CFO
EDO
NRR
NMSS
RES

Proposed Comment: Commissioner Dicus COMSECY-01-0037

I approve the director's request to provide assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process in a two-day seminar in Madrid, Spain. During a recent meeting with ACRS (December 5, 2001), I and the other Commissioners directed ACRS and the staff to examine some high-level issues with respect to risk-informed inspection processes (Staff Requirement Memorandum dated December 20, 2001). It is prudent to advise NRC participants to be cognizant of these high-level issues before they participate in the two-day seminar.

gpd
1-8-02

REQUEST REPLY BY: 1/9

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

Comm. Diaz appreciates the request and believes this is the correct approach. He has no objection. [illegible] for Comm. Diaz per telecon 12.26.1

December 20, 2001

COMSECY-01-0037

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

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: CSN REQUEST FOR NRR SUPPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-INFORMED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Background:

Mr. Villadóniga of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) has requested support from NRR to help in a pilot effort to use risk-informed inspections in the Spanish regulatory program. As you know, CSN is considering modifying its regulatory inspection practices to make them more "risk informed" and closer to the new NRC reactor oversight process. CSN is adapting NRC inspection procedures for use in its pilot inspection activity.

Specifically, CSN would like the assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process, including inspections. These inspectors would be invited to Spain in the January-March timeframe to participate in a two-day seminar in Madrid and then to observe and provide comments on NRC experiences during a two-day pilot inspection at the ASCO nuclear power plant, near Barcelona, covering up to four inspection procedures. The seminar is being organized by CSN consultants, including someone from Brookhaven National Laboratory, to address overall concepts, the methods and approaches used for risk-informed inspection activities, inspection procedures, and the risk insights relevant to selected inspection areas. The pilot inspection, following the seminar, will be announced to the licensee as a pilot and will not be part of CSN's oversight of the plant.

At the seminar, the NRC inspectors would be asked to make three or four presentations to discuss specific, hands-on experience that the NRC has gained in performing risk informed inspections at nuclear power plants in the U.S. During the pilot inspection, the NRC inspectors would be asked to observe CSN inspectors as they apply up to four inspection procedures used in the U.S. and as they evaluate their findings using the Significance Determination Process. The NRC inspectors would only answer CSN questions on their application of risk-informed techniques and processes compared to NRC experience, but would have no formal role in the inspection and evaluation pilot activity and would not form conclusions or make statements.

CONTACT: Suzanne McGuire, OIP
415-3433

26 DEC 01 9:17

ORIGINAL

REQUEST REPLY BY 1/9

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

Approved
Ellie Merschoff
12/27/01

December 20, 2001

COMSECY-01-0037

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

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: CSN REQUEST FOR NRR SUPPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-INFORMED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Background:

Mr. Villadóniga of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) has requested support from NRR to help in a pilot effort to use risk-informed inspections in the Spanish regulatory program. As you know, CSN is considering modifying its regulatory inspection practices to make them more "risk informed" and closer to the new NRC reactor oversight process. CSN is adapting NRC inspection procedures for use in its pilot inspection activity.

Specifically, CSN would like the assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process, including inspections. These inspectors would be invited to Spain in the January-March timeframe to participate in a two-day seminar in Madrid and then to observe and provide comments on NRC experiences during a two-day pilot inspection at the ASCO nuclear power plant, near Barcelona, covering up to four inspection procedures. The seminar is being organized by CSN consultants, including someone from Brookhaven National Laboratory, to address overall concepts, the methods and approaches used for risk-informed inspection activities, inspection procedures, and the risk insights relevant to selected inspection areas. The pilot inspection, following the seminar, will be announced to the licensee as a pilot and will not be part of CSN's oversight of the plant.

At the seminar, the NRC inspectors would be asked to make three or four presentations to discuss specific, hands-on experience that the NRC has gained in performing risk informed inspections at nuclear power plants in the U.S. During the pilot inspection, the NRC inspectors would be asked to observe CSN inspectors as they apply up to four inspection procedures used in the U.S. and as they evaluate their findings using the Significance Determination Process. The NRC inspectors would only answer CSN questions on their application of risk-informed techniques and processes compared to NRC experience, but would have no formal role in the inspection and evaluation pilot activity and would not form conclusions or make statements.

CONTACT: Suzanne McGuire, OIP
415-3433

REQUEST REPLY BY: 1/9

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

Approved w/o Comment.
1/7/02

December 20, 2001

COMSECY-01-0037

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

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: CSN REQUEST FOR NRR SUPPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-INFORMED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Background:

Mr. Villadóniga of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) has requested support from NRR to help in a pilot effort to use risk-informed inspections in the Spanish regulatory program. As you know, CSN is considering modifying its regulatory inspection practices to make them more "risk informed" and closer to the new NRC reactor oversight process. CSN is adapting NRC inspection procedures for use in its pilot inspection activity.

Specifically, CSN would like the assistance of two NRC inspectors with extensive experience in implementing the NRC reactor oversight process, including inspections. These inspectors would be invited to Spain in the January-March timeframe to participate in a two-day seminar in Madrid and then to observe and provide comments on NRC experiences during a two-day pilot inspection at the ASCO nuclear power plant, near Barcelona, covering up to four inspection procedures. The seminar is being organized by CSN consultants, including someone from Brookhaven National Laboratory, to address overall concepts, the methods and approaches used for risk-informed inspection activities, inspection procedures, and the risk insights relevant to selected inspection areas. The pilot inspection, following the seminar, will be announced to the licensee as a pilot and will not be part of CSN's oversight of the plant.

At the seminar, the NRC inspectors would be asked to make three or four presentations to discuss specific, hands-on experience that the NRC has gained in performing risk informed inspections at nuclear power plants in the U.S. During the pilot inspection, the NRC inspectors would be asked to observe CSN inspectors as they apply up to four inspection procedures used in the U.S. and as they evaluate their findings using the Significance Determination Process. The NRC inspectors would only answer CSN questions on their application of risk-informed techniques and processes compared to NRC experience, but would have no formal role in the inspection and evaluation pilot activity and would not form conclusions or make statements.

CONTACT: Suzanne McGuire, OIP
415-3433