

## **POLICY ISSUE NOTATION VOTE**

February 22, 2002

SECY-02-0032

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ABNORMAL OCCURRENCES FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2001

PURPOSE:

To obtain Commission approval to submit the abnormal occurrences report to Congress.

DISCUSSION:

This paper presents a draft of the "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2001" (NUREG-0090, Vol. 24) (Attachment 1). Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438) defines an abnormal occurrence (AO) as an unscheduled incident or event that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determines to be significant from the standpoint of public health or safety. "Abnormal Occurrence Criteria and Guidelines for Other Events of Interest" (Appendix A) discusses specific AO criteria. Also attached are proposed letters forwarding the AO report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

The report describes two AOs, one at a facility licensed by the NRC and the other at a facility licensed by an Agreement State. During the period from June 13 to June 16, 2000, an individual hired by Southeast Missouri State University, an NRC licensee, received an uptake of americium-241 resulting in a committed dose equivalent of 2.63 sievert (Sv) (263 rem) to the bone surface while performing decontamination and inventory activities for the licensee. On February 16, 2001, a radiographer employed by Quality Inspection Services, Inc., an Agreement State licensee, received a radiation exposure of 392 mSv (39.2 rem) after failing to retract a radiography source into its fully locked position and failing to perform an adequate survey.

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Both events meet the criteria for abnormal occurrence categorization as defined in Appendix A, Section I.A., "Human Exposure to Radiation from Licensed Material." Appendix B to the AO report is reserved for updates on previously reported AOs. During this reporting period, there was no significant new information regarding previous AOs.

Appendix C, "Other Events of Interest," of the AO report discusses events that do not meet the AO criteria but may be of interest to Congress and the public. The guidelines for determining events to be considered are also given in Appendix A. Appendix C describes one reactor event, Circumferential Cracks on Reactor Vessel Head Penetrations at the Oconee Nuclear Station Unit 3, and discusses a materials issue involving events where licensed material entered the public domain in an uncontrolled manner.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed the draft report and has no legal objections to its contents.

RECOMMENDATION:

The staff recommends that the Commission approve the contents of the proposed AO report to Congress for FY 2001 and the proposed letters forwarding the AO report to Congress.

When approval is received, the staff will submit the letters to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to the Chairman for signature. The Office of Congressional Affairs will then arrange for appropriate distribution to Congress. The NRC staff will issue a *Federal Register* notice describing the NRC and Agreement State licensee AOs and announcing publication of the report.

**/RA/**

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Attachments:

1. Draft of "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2001"
2. Letter to President of the Senate
3. Letter to Speaker of the House



OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH  
DIVISION OF SYSTEMS ANALYSIS & REGULATORY EFFECTIVENESS  
RADIATION PROTECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL RISK & WASTE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

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ITEM NO:                      12#3

ORIGINATOR:                JONES, DSARE/RPERWMB

SUBJECT:                    REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ABNORMAL OCCURRENCES FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2001

DATE:                        01/04/02  
                                    \*See Previous Concurrence

ROUTING:

1. JONES	CONCUR	02/01/02*
2. TROTTIER	CONCUR	02/01/02*
3. THADANI	CONCUR	02/07/02*
4. LOHAUS	CONCUR	01/30/02* (e-mail)
5. TREBY	CONCUR	01/29/02* (phone)
6. FUNCHES	CONCUR	01/23/02* (e-mail)
7. VIRGILIO	CONCUR	01/29/02*
8. COLLINS	CONCUR	01/ 24/02* (e-mail)
9. PAPERIELLO	CONCUR	02/ /02
10. TRAVERS	SIGN/CONCUR	02/ /02
11. FLETCHER	DISPATCH	02/ /02