

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M020319

April 1, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON OFFICE OF
NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH (RES) PROGRAMS,
PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS, 9:30 A.M., TUESDAY,
MARCH 19, 2002, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM,
ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN
TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of RES programs, performance and plans. The Commission is encouraged by RES's commitment to developing high quality products that can be used directly by the regulatory staff in accomplishing the NRC's mission. The staff should:

1. Engage the Commission early on policy issues associated with new reactor designs;
2. Keep the Commission informed on the status of obtaining partners to share funding for physical testing of packages as part of the package performance study;
3. Inform the Commission of the process used to determine when further research on a particular item should be closed or terminated;
(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 6/28/02)
4. Clearly identify and communicate the differences and applicability of the various systems used to assess the risk significance of issues and events. This should include the significance determination process (SDP), the accident sequence precursor (ASP) program, and the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) program; and
(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 6/28/02)
5. Assess options for adopting more widely accepted international quality standards like ISO-9000 by looking at Appendix B and the existing regulatory framework surrounding quality assurance.
(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 12/13/02)

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR