

July 5, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF TECHNICAL MANAGER FOR IAEA
LIFE EXTENSION PROJECT

As you know, the Chairman has urged the IAEA Nuclear Safety Department to play an active role in dealing with the issue of life extension for Soviet designed reactors, recognizing the constraints of G-7 policy of not prolonging the operating life of higher risk Soviet designed reactors. As a result, the IAEA proposed an extrabudgetary program in this area (Item 3 of Attachment 1). The U.S. contributed \$150,000 in 2002 to get this project started. In the near future, we will be asked to participate in the planning and execution of the project. Related to this is Hungary's recently announced plans to extend the life of PAKS and request to the IAEA for assistance. Since the Hungarians are using the U.S. License Renewal Model, this will provide an opportunity to set a positive model for a rigorous and transparent treatment of life extension issues. Again, the NRC will be asked to participate.

Clearly, there are policy issues that will need to be closely coordinated with the Commission and Department of State. But many believe it is inevitable that certain FSU countries will chose to extend the life of Soviet designed reactors. I have designated Gordon Fowler to be the OIP lead for NRC participation in these efforts and he will facilitate interaction with the Commission, State, and liaison with IAEA through Jim Blaha. I also believe it is important to the long term success of this effort that you designate a mid-level manager or senior staff member to provide continuity and technical and process guidance and assistance in shaping NRC participation and support. In that regard, Mike Mayfield has been very effective in playing a leadership role in the RBMK Pipe Crack Project. He would be an excellent choice or you may want to consider someone from NRR. Assuming you support this approach, please have the person you select contact Gordon Fowler at 415-2329.

I believe this "Project Team" approach may have merit for management of certain high priority international projects. We could consider this as a pilot for other projects. Thanks in advance for your support.

Attachment: as stated

cc w/attachment:
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OIP r/f

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