

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

FROM: CHAIRMAN MESERVE

SUBJECT: SECY-01-0070 - PLAN FOR PREAPPLICATION ACTIVITIES
ON THE PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PBMR)

Approved X/w comments Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____ Request Discussion _____

COMMENTS:

See attached comments


SIGNATURE

May 16, 2007
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No _____

OK P/B
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COMMENTS OF CHAIRMAN MESERVE ON SECY-01-0070

I approve the staff's plan for preapplication activities on the pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR). I encourage the staff to keep the Commission informed as to its progress on these activities, and to seek Commission guidance promptly when policy issues are identified for resolution. In its development of a regulatory framework and approach to licensing, the staff should also clearly identify policy issues that the NRC is not able to resolve without Congressional action to modify provisions in the NRC's governing statutes.

I understand that Exelon may rely in part on the results of a test program using a South African prototype plant in order to demonstrate compliance with U.S. requirements. Experience with the design certification of the passive light-water reactors indicates that the scope and content of a testing and analysis program may take considerable time to resolve. In light of the unique features of the PBMR and the fact that the tests will be conducted outside the U. S., the staff should include consideration of the prototype test program and associated activities within the scope of its preapplication activities.