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

REVISED

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

February 13, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - COMJSM-00-0003 - STAFF
READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION
AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

The Commission has agreed to the following actions:

The staff should assess its technical, licensing, and inspection capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with an early site permit application, a license application, and the construction of a new nuclear power plant. This effort should consider not only the nuclear power plant designs that have been certified by the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52, but also the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor and other generation 3+ or generation 4 light water reactors such as the AP-1000 and the International Reactor Innovative and Secure (IRIS) designs.

The staff should also critically assess the regulatory infrastructure supporting both Parts 50 and Part 52, and other applicable regulations, and identify where enhancements, if any, are necessary. Particular emphasis should be placed on the early identification of regulatory issues and potential process improvements. The staff should also incorporate into its planning the need for early interactions with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards so as to ensure that important technical and regulatory issues receive appropriate consideration by that group.

The staff should integrate these tasks with the various related activities that are underway and should provide the Commission a schedule for completing the tasks. Resource estimates should be included for the activities listed in the schedule. The staff should be thoughtful and judicious in committing resources. The staff may find that some items in the schedule may be best linked to milestones and not necessarily calendar dates.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: (schedule) 4/30/01)

The staff should encourage the industry to be as specific as possible about its plans and schedules so that the agency can plan and budget for advanced reactor activities without disrupting other current important initiatives. The staff should work with our stakeholders to exercise, to the extent appropriate, the NRC's review process and identify potential policy issues that should be addressed by the Commission in a timely manner.

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cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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