

MB8-222

ORIGINAL DUE DT: 06/30/03 TICKET NO: 020030061

FROM:
Travers

DOC DT: 03/06/03
NRR RCVD DATE: 04/02/03

TO:
Commission

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** YEL **

DESC: Future Operational Safety REview Team (OSART)
 Missions and International REGULATORY Review Team
 (IRRT) Service

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Borchardt
Sheron
Matthews
Gillespie
Beckner
Reis
Carpenter
NRR Mailroom

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
 DIPM Boger

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Explore potential incentives to encourage licensee participation in the OSART missions. Explore options such as granting some regulatory credit (e.g., reduction in the NRC baseline inspection program where obvious overlap exists) to minimize the burden of hosting an OSART mission. Provide response to NRR Office Director TA by 6/30/03. Coordinate with DRIP (T. Reis) as appropriate.

March 6, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers */RA/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: FUTURE OPERATIONAL SAFETY REVIEW TEAM (OSART) MISSIONS
AND INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY REVIEW TEAM (IRRT)
SERVICE

In memoranda to the Commission dated November 19, 2002, and December 3, 2002, I discussed planned staff activities regarding future OSART missions and the International Regulatory Review Team (IRRT) service. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an updated status. As you know, the last OSART mission conducted in the United States was the mission to the North Anna Nuclear Plant in January 2000, with a followup mission in April 2002.

The staff has contacted the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) and they have agreed to engage licensees for the purpose of identifying a volunteer to host an OSART mission to be completed by the end of the calendar year 2005. The staff plans to schedule subsequent OSARTs every 3 years thereafter to coincide with the 3-year cycle of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) meetings. The staff is exploring potential incentives to encourage licensee participation in this process and minimize the burden of hosting the OSART mission. For example, the agency could grant some regulatory credit such as a reduction in the NRC baseline inspection program where obvious overlap exists. INPO is also evaluating possible assessment equivalencies which would permit reductions in a licensee's INPO assessment program as an incentive to host an OSART. In an effort to develop an understanding with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concerning the characterization of team findings and recommendations, the staff has scheduled a plenary session on April 17, 2003, during the Regulatory Information Conference, to discuss international experience with OSARTs. This session will include representatives from the international community and from the U.S. industry. Additionally, NRR staff will meet with appropriate IAEA staff members, at the end of March, to learn about the OSART programs, implementation, required resources and experiences.

The staff also proposes to continue its ongoing dialogue with IAEA to gain an understanding of the IAEA's IRRT service. Efforts in this area will include continued NRC staff participation in IRRT missions and exchanges with IAEA to determine the scope, impact, and potential benefits from conducting one in the United States. The staff will use this experience in framing an IRRT recommendation to the Commission.

CONTACT: Bob Caldwell, NRR
301-415-1243

The Commissioners

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In September 2003, the staff will report to the Commission regarding the status of these discussions and planned future activities including resource and schedule estimates.

cc: SECY
OCA
OGC
OPA
OIP
CFO

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DATE	02/20/2003	02/20/2003	03/04/2003	02/20/2003
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NAME	SJCollins*	WDTTravers		
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