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April 6, 2001

MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2001

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures held a meeting April 4, 2000, in Room 2B1, Two White Flint North Building, Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters related to the conduct of ACRS business. The meeting was convened at 3:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

ATTENDEES

G. E. Apostolakis, Chairman
M. Bonaca
T. Kress

ACRS STAFF

J. T. Larkins
J. Lyons
H. Larson
S. Duraiswamy
R. P. Savio
C. Harris

DISCUSSION

- 1) Review of the Member Assignments and Priorities for ACRS Reports and Letters for the April ACRS Meeting

Member assignments and priorities for ACRS reports and letters for the April ACRS meeting are included in a separate handout. Reports and letters that would benefit from additional consideration at a future ACRS meeting were discussed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the assignments and priorities for the April 2001 ACRS meeting be as shown in the handout. Instead of preparing a report only on the "Categorization Process" associated with the South Texas Project Exemption request at the April meeting, the Committee should consider preparing one report at the May ACRS meeting on both the Categorization Process and the special treatment requirements.

S/b

2) Anticipated Workload for ACRS Members

The anticipated workload of the ACRS members through June 2001 is included in a separate handout. The objectives are to:

- Review the reasons for the scheduling of each activity and the expected work product and to make changes, as appropriate
- Manage the members' workload for these meetings
- Plan and schedule items for ACRS discussion of topical and emerging issues

During this session, the Subcommittee discussed and developed recommendations on the items that require Committee decision, which are included in Section II of the Future Activities list.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the members provide comments on the anticipated workload. Changes will be made, as appropriate. The Committee needs to consider the Subcommittee's recommendations on items listed in Section II of the Future Activities.

3) ACRS Action Plan for CY 2001

During the December 2000 ACRS meeting, the Committee approved the ACRS Action Plan for CY 2001. The Action Plan was sent to all Commissioners. We received comments from the NRC Chairman on March 16, 2001 (see separate handout 12.2). After reconciliation of the comments, the Action Plan will be published.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the ACRS Executive Director propose a response for review by the Committee on the resolution of the comments received from the NRC Chairman (see separate Handout 12.2). The Executive Director should inform the Chairman's Office regarding our plan to resolve the Chairman's comments prior to sending a formal response.

4) Commission Meeting on the NRC Safety Research Program

The Commission plans to hold a meeting on May 10, 2001 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to discuss the NRC Safety Research Program with two Panels. The first Panel consists of former Commissioner Rogers and the ACRS members who have the lead responsibility in preparing CY 2001 report to the Commission on the NRC Safety Research Program. The second Panel consists of representatives of RES. This meeting falls on the first day of the May 2001 ACRS meeting. The Committee is scheduled to meet with the Commission on May 11, 2001 (see Item 5).

RECOMMENDATION

During the March meeting, the Committee decided that Drs. Powers and Wallis should serve on the Panel. The Committee will recess the meeting between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on May 10 so as to allow all members to attend the Commission meeting on the Safety Research Program. In addition, Drs. Powers and Wallis should prepare slides and provide them to the Committee prior to the Commission meeting.

5) ACRS Meeting with the NRC Commissioners

The ACRS is scheduled to meet with the NRC Commissioners on Friday, May 11, 2001, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to discuss items of mutual interest. Topics approved by the Commission and assignments proposed by the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee are as follows:

- Proposed framework for risk-informed changes to 10 CFR Part 50 (WJS/MTM)
- South Texas Project exemption request (JDS/MWW)
- Issues associated with Thermal-Hydraulic Codes (GBW/PAB)
- Status report on Steam Generator Issues (DAP/SD/MTM)
- Status report on ACRS review of license renewal applications and related matters (MVB/RBE)

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Committee discuss these topics during the April ACRS meeting. Subsequently, the cognizant members and staff engineers should prepare slides on the assigned topics for members' review and approval prior to forwarding to the Commission.

6) New Nuclear Plant Construction and the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Design

The ACRS Subcommittee on Advanced Reactor Designs is scheduled to hold a meeting on June 4-5, 2001 to discuss the status of NRC and industry activities associated with future reactor designs.

In a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) dated February 9, 2001 (Attachment pp. 1-13), the Commission instructed the staff to assess its technical, licensing, and inspection capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that could be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with an early site permit application, license application, and the construction of a new nuclear power plant. The Commission asked the staff to submit an integrated plan for advanced reactor activities by

April 30, 2001. The Commission has since established a Future Licensing Organization to prepare for and manage future reactor and site license applications (see NRC Announcement 016, p. 14)

In that SRM, the Commission also directed the staff to incorporate into the staff planning the need for early interactions with the ACRS so as to ensure that important technical and regulatory issues receive appropriate consideration by the ACRS. The staff plans to brief the Subcommittee at the June 4-5 meeting on the status of activities associated with future plant licensing.

The Subcommittee discussed a proposed agenda for the June 4-5, 2001 Subcommittee meeting. A revised agenda, which incorporates the Subcommittee's comments is attached (pp. 15-17).

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends the following:

- The Committee should provide comments on the proposed agenda by Saturday, April 7, 2001.
- Dr. Savio should develop a proposed list of questions to be sent to the designers.
- Dr. Savio should confirm the availability of speakers for the meeting by Friday, April 6, 2001.
- Subsequent to the June 4-5, 2001 Subcommittee meeting, Drs. Kress and Apostolakis, in coordination with the cognizant ACRS staff, continue to develop a plan for ACRS review of the activities associated with the advanced reactor designs.
- During the June 2001 ACRS meeting, the Committee should discuss the follow-up items resulting from the June 4-5, 2001 Subcommittee meeting.

7)

ACRS Research Report

The ACRS report on the NRC Safety Research Program was approved on March 16, 2001. An advance copy of this report has been provided to the Commissioners. It will be published as NUREG-1635, Vol. 4 in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Committee decide on the scope of the next report and which member should have the lead responsibility for preparing the next report to the Commission on the NRC Safety Research Program.

8) Draft Commission Paper on ACRS/ACNW Self Assessment and Summary Matrix of ACRS Reports and Letters for CY 2000

A proposed Commission paper discussing the ACRS/ACNW Self Assessment is included in the Attachment (pp. 18-31). The summary matrix of the ACRS reports and letters for CY 2000 will be handed out separately. The ACNW reviewed and approved the portion of the proposed Commission Paper applicable to ACNW during its March 21-22, 2001 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Committee review the ACRS letter matrix and approve it during the April 2001 meeting, with a provision authorizing the ACRS Executive Director to work with the ACRS Chairman to refine the document, as needed prior to sending it to the Commission. Additionally, the Committee should review ACRS-related portions of the proposed Commission paper and provide comments to Dr. Savio by April 12, 2001.

9) Budget Information

- 1) On March 23, 2001, the NRC's Program Review Committee met to discuss the mid-year budget requests submitted by each office. The ACRS/ACNW office successfully presented a case for an increase in travel funds. The ACRS/ACNW office was granted an additional \$25,000 for travel through September 30, 2001.
- 2) We are currently in the process of preparing our budget request for FY 2003.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends the following:

- In an effort to ensure that travel funds remain sufficient throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, any "add on" subcommittee meetings or other travel such as conferences or training which have not already been requested should go through the ACRS Chairman and Executive Director.
- The Executive Director should keep the Committee updated on the progress of the FY 2003 budget request.

10) Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) (JTL/RPS)

An updated MOU between the ACRS and ACNW and the NRC staff was effected 3/12/01. Copies will be provided to the ACRS members. The MOU reflects current NRC policy and will be incorporated into both the EDO and the ACRS/ACNW Procedures Manual. As part of the new MOU negotiation process,

the OGC recommended that any restricted distribution document that is provided to an advisory committee member or advisory committee staff display a banner at the top of the first page of the document that states the equivalent of **"This is an NRC restricted distribution document. Its contents may not be disclosed to any member of the public or at a public meeting, unless approval has first been obtained from the appropriate agency official."** This is not inconsistent with our current practices, and we intend to do as OGC suggests.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that members familiarize themselves with both the updated MOU and the basis for the agreement to label restricted distribution documents.

11) Hotel Accommodations

There appears to be continued concern over hotel arrangements during Full and Subcommittee meetings. The issue relates to the cap on hotel rates paid by the Government and the reluctance to accept the government rate by most of the hotels that are convenient to the members.

RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Apostolakis, in coordination with other members, should provide a list of hotels, identifying preferences, to Carol Harris. Subsequently, the Operations Support Branch Staff will contact these hotels to find out whether they will provide accommodations to the members with government rates. The Executive Director should meet with the NRC's Chief Financial Officer to explore any means to provide an exemption from the current allowable limit on hotels.

12) New Member Selection (JTL)

Effective 3/23/01, Dr. Ford became an official member of the ACRS. The selection of Dr. Rosen has been approved by the Commission and is now proceeding through the clearance process. We are in the process of soliciting another ACRS member with expertise in the area of thermal hydraulics.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Executive Director keep the Committee informed of the status of the new member solicitation.

13) Discussion of General Design Criteria (10 CFR 50 Appendix A)

To assist the Committee in its review of staff activities to develop risk informed regulations, and in response to a request from one of the Commissioners, Mr. Sorensen has been examining the General Design Criteria. The purpose of the

work is to determine if the GDC support risk informed regulation as written, how they might be modified to do so, and the extent to which they are applicable to advanced reactors.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that Mr. Sorensen make a 30-minute presentation on his findings to the full Committee at the May meeting. If the workload for the May meeting is too heavy, Mr. Sorensen should provide this presentation (1 hour) during the Plant Operations Subcommittee meeting on May 9, 2001.

14) Quadripartite Meeting Update

In a recent letter from Lothar Hahn, Chairman of the RSK, he noted that preparations are continuing for Germany to host the next Quadripartite meeting, possibly later this CY. The French GPR have confirmed their participation and the RSK is currently working to confirm the participation of the Japanese NSC. We still need to propose subjects for discussion and establish dates for the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Executive Director contact the RSK later this month to establish some dates for the meeting, preferably in October 2001.

15) Member Issues (JTL)

Travel Requests

- (a) Dr. F. Peter Ford has requested to travel to Kyongju, S. Korea, April 23-28, 2001 to attend International Cooperative Group on Environmentally Assisted Cracking (ICGEAC) of Light Water Reactor Materials (see attached, pp. 32-35).
- (b) Dr. George Apostolakis has requested to travel to Irvine, California, to discuss future developments and plans for the use of PRA in regulatory decisionmaking (see attached p. 36).

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee recommends that the Committee approve the travel requests by Drs. Ford and Apostolakis.

REVISED

February 9, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Commissioner Merrifield
FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*
SUBJECT: COMJSM-00-0003 - STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR
PLANT CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

This memorandum is to inform you that all Commissioners have concurred in your proposal to take the steps necessary to ensure that the staff is prepared to carry out its responsibilities should new plant orders emerge. The attached SRM provides staff direction on this issue.

This completes action on COMJSM-00-0003

Attachment
As stated

cc Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
EDO
OGC

REVISED

February 9, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

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 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.

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

October 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM: Jeffrey S. Merrifield /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT
CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

As you are aware, several utilities are seriously exploring the option of building new nuclear plants in the United States. Joe Colvin, the President of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), recently announced that a new plant may be ordered in the United States within five years, but that conditions for doing so may be ready in as little as two years. In addition to these activities, PECO Energy (PECO) is actively involved in Pebble Bed reactor initiatives in South Africa. If such initiatives prove successful, it is not inconceivable to think that PECO may try to utilize this technology in the U.S. According to recent comments attributed to Corbin McNeill, PECO's President and CEO, PECO could apply for a design certification in as few as 15 months.

I am not prepared to address the likelihood of these initiatives, and I certainly do not want to give the impression that I am in any way promoting them—as I am not. However, given the magnitude of the technical, licensing, and inspection challenges associated with these initiatives, I believe the agency must approach them in a proactive manner. Specifically, I believe it would be prudent for us to take the steps necessary to ensure that the staff is prepared to carry out its responsibilities should new plant orders emerge or should PECO, or any other entity, pursue the Pebble Bed reactor in the United States.

I am sensitive to staff resource constraints, and appreciate that our limited resources must primarily be focused on immediate and definitive needs. However, consistent with the NRC's "Corporate Management Strategies," I believe the Commission must, at a minimum, better understand what general steps need to be taken and the timeframes required to do so, to assure agency readiness should these challenges arise. Therefore, I propose that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) take the following actions.

1. Assess our staff's technical and licensing capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with a new plant application.

2. Given that the NRC has not overseen the construction of a new plant in several years, assess the agency's inspection assets to determine where there are gaps in knowledge and expertise.
3. Critically assess the regulatory infrastructure supporting Part 52, and identify where enhancements, if any, are necessary.
4. Given that staff understanding and expertise associated with the Pebble Bed reactor will take time to develop, assess what should be done by the NRC to gradually build a prudent regulatory foundation and an appropriate level of expertise commensurate with the rate of progress made on the Pebble Bed initiative in South Africa.

I propose that the EDO provide the Commission with a schedule for completing these actions by January 2, 2001. The EDO should also provide the Commission with the results of these assessments, including the timeframes discussed above, upon their completion.



COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D C 20555-0001

COMJSM-00-0003

October 31, 2000

Approved with comments.

Richard A. Meserve 1/29/01

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM Jeffrey S. Merrifield

SUBJECT: STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT
CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

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I am sensitive to staff resource constraints, and appreciate that our limited resources must primarily be focused on immediate and definitive needs. However, consistent with the NRC's "Corporate Management Strategies," I believe the Commission must, at a minimum, better understand what general steps need to be taken and the timeframes required to do so, to assure agency readiness should these challenges arise. Therefore, I propose that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) take the following actions.

1. Assess our staff's technical and licensing capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with a new plant application.

COMMENTS OF CHAIRMAN MESERVE ON COMJSM-00-0003

As events in California have starkly revealed, the Nation is dependent on supplies of reliable and economical electrical energy to provide the foundation for our social and economic well-being. Society may decide that additional nuclear plants should be included in the portfolio of technologies that are deployed to meet expanding energy needs. And, if that is the case, it is incumbent on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to assure that our regulatory processes do not stand as a needless impediment. The NRC's focus must remain on preserving the public health and safety, but we should seek to achieve that objective in a fair, efficient, and effective fashion. Because COMJSM-00-0003 is intended to assure the NRC's capability to respond to possible future construction, I approve it, subject to the following comments:

First, the staff is already pursuing a diverse range of activities that bear on new construction and the response to COMJSM-00-0003 should not impede these efforts. For example, as indicated by the memorandum to the Commission from the Executive Director of Operations (EDO) of November 14, 2000, the staff is investing resources to stay abreast of new advanced reactor designs because of the possible interest in building such designs in the United States. Similarly, the response to my memorandum of October 24, 2000, which concerns the need to assess the core technical capabilities that will be required of the staff in the future and of the steps that are needed to assure the availability of technically competent staff, should include consideration of the possible need to handle future new construction activities. And, as indicated by the memorandum to the Commission from the EDO of December 18, 2000, the staff is examining various issues relating to our procedural processes that bear on new plant construction. Moreover, the staff is currently discussing cooperative activities related to advanced reactor technology with the Department of Energy, consistent with our existing Memorandum of Understanding governing such interactions. The staff response to COMJSM-00-0003 should reflect an effort to integrate the various activities that are already underway and to determine if there are any significant gaps that require attention.

Second, I join Commissioner Diaz in his suggestion that the Commission's effort in connection with COMJSM-00-0003 should include the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR), but should also extend beyond it to encompass other concepts. There is strong interest in the PBMR project in South Africa, which, if successful, could eventually result in construction activity in the U.S. (The NRC has previously indicated that it would provide technical assistance to South Africa in its assessment of the PBMR in part so that our staff could develop familiarity with the application of risk insights in the evaluation of this novel technology.) Nonetheless, it is premature to focus on just the PBMR because there are a variety of other approaches that might also be pursued.

Finally, I suggest that a particular emphasis be placed on the identification of regulatory issues. Nuclear energy will not be an attractive option unless our regulatory system is able to provide adequate assurance of safety through processes that are timely, reliable, and predictable. Because of the delay that can surround rulemaking activities, we should address and correct needless regulatory impediments now. The activities outlined in the EDO's memorandum of December 18, 2000, should facilitate this effort. In this regard, 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.



COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20555-0001

NOT REPLY BY 11/15/00
COMJSM-00-0003

October 31, 2000

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Approved. See attached
comments.

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

Christa Joy Dicus
Christa Joy Dicus 12/12/00

FROM: Jeffrey S. Merrifield *JM*

SUBJECT: STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT
CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

As you are aware, several utilities are seriously exploring the option of building new nuclear plants in the United States. Joe Colvin, the President of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), recently announced that a new plant may be ordered in the United States within five years, but that conditions for doing so may be ready in as little as two years. In addition to these activities, PECO Energy (PECO) is actively involved in Pebble Bed reactor initiatives in South Africa. If such initiatives prove successful, it is not inconceivable to think that PECO may try to utilize this technology in the U.S. According to recent comments attributed to Corbin McNeill, PECO's President and CEO, PECO could apply for a design certification in as few as 15 months.

I am not prepared to address the likelihood of these initiatives, and I certainly do not want to give the impression that I am in any way promoting them--as I am not. However, given the magnitude of the technical, licensing, and inspection challenges associated with these initiatives, I believe the agency must approach them in a proactive manner. Specifically, I believe it would be prudent for us to take the steps necessary to ensure that the staff is prepared to carry out its responsibilities should new plant orders emerge or should PECO, or any other entity, pursue the Pebble Bed reactor in the United States.

I am sensitive to staff resource constraints, and appreciate that our limited resources must primarily be focused on immediate and definitive needs. However, consistent with the NRC's "Corporate Management Strategies," I believe the Commission must, at a minimum, better understand what general steps need to be taken and the timeframes required to do so, to assure agency readiness should these challenges arise. Therefore, I propose that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) take the following actions.

- 1. Assess our staff's technical and licensing capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with a new plant application.

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2. Given that the NRC has not overseen the construction of a new plant in several years, assess the agency's inspection assets to determine where there are gaps in knowledge and expertise.
3. Critically assess the regulatory infrastructure supporting Part 52, and identify where enhancements, if any, are necessary.
4. Given that staff understanding and expertise associated with the Pebble Bed reactor will take time to develop, assess what should be done by the NRC to gradually build a prudent regulatory foundation and an appropriate level of expertise commensurate with the rate of progress made on the Pebble Bed initiative in South Africa.

I propose that the EDO provide the Commission with a schedule for completing these actions by January 2, 2001. The EDO should also provide the Commission with the results of these assessments, including the timeframes discussed above, upon their completion.

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COMMISSIONER DICUS' COMMENTS ON COMJSM-00-0003:

I approve Commissioner Merrifield's proposal to assess the staff readiness and preparation for a potential new nuclear power plant application. The staff should include resource estimates for activities listed in it's schedule for completing the assessment. Since, at this time, we are not certain whether a potential new nuclear power plant might come in under Part 50 or Part 52, the staff should assess the regulatory infrastructure associated with licensing a new plant under both Part 50 and Part 52.

I am pleased that the EDO, as discussed in his November 14, 2000 memorandum to the Chairman and the Commissioners on "Advanced Reactors", has already taken some initial steps to prepare the staff should a new nuclear power plant application be received. As the staff starts the process to become better prepared for a potential new plant application, it is important to recognize the large degree of uncertainty in the planning process. Consequently the staff should be thoughtful and judicious in committing resources at this time. It seems prudent that we link our commitment of resources to the progress of the industry toward submitting a new nuclear power plant application. Beyond initial regulatory infrastructure assessments, any schedule developed by the staff may be best served by linking it to milestones and not necessarily calendar dates.

The staff should work with NEI and other stakeholders to appropriately exercise aspects of the review and approval process and identify potential policy issues for resolution as early as possible



COMMISSIONER

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

11/15/00
COMJSM-00-0003

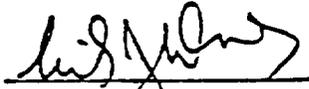
October 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM: Jeffrey S. Merrifield

SUBJECT: STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT
CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

Approved with attached
comments.


Nils J. Diaz 01/24/01

As you are aware, several utilities are seriously exploring the option of building new nuclear plants in the United States. Joe Colvin, the President of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), recently announced that a new plant may be ordered in the United States within five years, but that conditions for doing so may be ready in as little as two years. In addition to these activities, PECO Energy (PECO) is actively involved in Pebble Bed reactor initiatives in South Africa. If such initiatives prove successful, it is not inconceivable to think that PECO may try to utilize this technology in the U.S. According to recent comments attributed to Corbin McNeill, PECO's President and CEO, PECO could apply for a design certification in as few as 15 months.

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1. Assess our staff's technical and licensing capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with a new plant application.

-REC'D BY HUD-

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COMMISSIONER DIAZ' COMMENTS ON COMJSM-00-0003

The staff has initiated a series of activities e.g., EDO's memorandum to the Commission on "Advanced Reactors", November 14, 2000, to address the issues that would arise should new plant orders emerge in the near future. However, I support Commissioner Merrifield's proposal as a more disciplined approach to become cognizant of and proactively address the requisite programmatic and resource issues. Therefore, I approve proposed actions 1, 2 and 3 as stated in Commissioner Merrifield's "Staff Readiness for New Nuclear Power Plant Construction and the Pebble Bed Reactor". I believe that proposed action 4 should be expanded to include Generation 3 - or Generation 4 light water reactors, like Westinghouse's IRIS.

It appears that more reliable information is to be available soon on the issues and schedules. The staff should provide the schedule requested in the COM, including the addition recommended above, by mid-March 2001 and provide a preliminary programmatic assessment by June 30, 2001.



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

11/15/00
COMJSM-00-0003

October 31, 2000

COMMISSIONER

Approved. See attached comments.

Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
Edward McGaffigan, Jr. 11/15/00

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM: Jeffrey S Merrifield *JSM*

SUBJECT: STAFF READINESS FOR NEW NUCLEAR PLANT
CONSTRUCTION AND THE PEBBLE BED REACTOR

As you are aware, several utilities are seriously exploring the option of building new nuclear plants in the United States. Joe Colvin, the President of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), recently announced that a new plant may be ordered in the United States within five years but that conditions for doing so may be ready in as little as two years. In addition to these activities, PECO Energy (PECO) is actively involved in Pebble Bed reactor initiatives in South Africa. If such initiatives prove successful, it is not inconceivable to think that PECO may try to utilize this technology in the U.S. According to recent comments attributed to Corbin McNeill, PECO's President and CEO, PECO could apply for a design certification in as few as 15 months.

I am not prepared to address the likelihood of these initiatives, and I certainly do not want to give the impression that I am in any way promoting them—as I am not. However, given the magnitude of the technical, licensing, and inspection challenges associated with these initiatives, I believe the agency must approach them in a proactive manner. Specifically, I believe it would be prudent for us to take the steps necessary to ensure that the staff is prepared to carry out its responsibilities should new plant orders emerge or should PECO, or any other entity, pursue the Pebble Bed reactor in the United States.

I am sensitive to staff resource constraints, and appreciate that our limited resources must primarily be focused on immediate and definitive needs. However, consistent with the NRC's "Corporate Management Strategies," I believe the Commission must, at a minimum, better understand what general steps need to be taken and the timeframes required to do so, to assure agency readiness should these challenges arise. Therefore, I propose that the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) take the following actions.

1. Assess our staff's technical and licensing capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its responsibilities associated with a new plant application.



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Announcement No. 016

Date: March 16, 2001

To: All NRC Employees
SUBJECT: FUTURE LICENSING ORGANIZATION IN NRR

The purpose of this announcement is to describe plans to establish an organization in NRR to prepare for and manage future reactor and site licensing applications. NRR intends to staff the organization in phases with the objective of having a fully functional Future Licensing Project Organization by the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Scott Newberry, Deputy Director, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, will lead this effort and will report directly to Mr. Jon Johnson, the Associate Director for Inspection and Programs in NRR, until he is replaced by Mr. R. William Borchardt in the near future.

As you may know, several utilities and organizations have contacted the NRC to initiate discussions and activities associated with building and licensing a new nuclear plant in the United States. These include Exelon's request for a pre-application review of a Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PMBR), which is being led by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and Exelon's subsequent plan to submit an application to build the PMBR design. Licensee representatives have also indicated to the NRC that applications for early site permits could be submitted in the next few years. An application for certification of the AP 1000 design is expected next year. While the schedules for these activities are not certain, we must prepare to carry out our licensing responsibilities.

A Future Licensing Project Organization will be formed under Mr. Newberry, with the assistance of Dr. Richard Barrett, Chief of the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch. This first phase group will be responsible for establishing a project management function for future licensing tasks in NRC that includes updating Part 52, review of the AP 1000, preparation for PMBR licensing, coordination with RES on PMBR pre-application issues, environmental and siting project management and other tasks, including interface with our many stakeholders. The group will be formed through detail and rotational assignment of staff experienced in regulatory programs including the design certification process. Solicitations of staff interested in joining this group are being initiated and interested staff are encouraged to respond.

A significant effort in this phase will be to coordinate an interoffice effort to assess the technical, licensing, and inspection capabilities and identify enhancements, if any, that would be necessary to ensure that the agency can effectively carry out its future licensing responsibilities. Dr. Barrett will head this effort, in addition to acting for Mr. Newberry while he completes current assignments.

Staffing of this organization and planning for these activities will continue as the NRC obtains information about possible plans and schedules from our stakeholders.

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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APRIL 5, 2001

JUNE 4-5, 2001, ACRS WORKSHOP — REGULATORY CHALLENGES IN THE LICENSING OF GENERATION 3+ AND GENERATION 4 REACTORS

FIRST DAY, June 4—9:00 A.M. to 6:45 P.M.

1. Introduction by: G. Apostolakis and T. Kress 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
2. Keynote address by Commissioner Diaz — 30minutes 9:15 a.m. -10:00 a.m.
Discussion — 15 minutes

BREAK — 10.00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

4. DOE Presentations (Magwood, et al) 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Overview of NERAC Long Term Technology Research and Development Plan with focus on commercial reactor (Generation 2, 3 and 4) work, DOE work on Generation 4 reactors, and proposed small reactor concepts.

3. Generation 4 Design Concepts 11:15a.m.- 4:45 p.m.

Discussions of selected designs — Design features and safety issues — 45minutes (for each design)

PBMR 11:15a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LUNCH — 12:00 p.m - 1:15 p.m.

IRIS 1:15 p.m. - 2:00p.m.

GA GT-MHR 2:00 p.m. -2:45 p.m.

BREAK — 2:45p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

GE PRISM 3:00 p.m. -3:45 p.m.

4. NRC Presentations 3:45 p.m. -5:45 p.m.

NRC response to 2/13/2001 SRM on evaluation of NRC licensing infrastructure (RES/NRR) — 60 minutes

Planned RES activities (Thadani, King, et al) — 60 minutes

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5. Discussion 5:45p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Panel Discussion on Industry and NRC Licensing Infrastructure Needed for
Generation 4 Reactors
Makeup of the Discussion Panel
A. Thadani, RES
DOE representative
PBMR representative
IRIS representative
GA GT-MHR representative
PRISM representative

End of the First Day

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SECOND DAY, June 5 — 8:30 A.M. to 6:45 P.M.

1. **Introduction by:** G. Apostolakis and T. Kress **8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

2. **NEI Advanced Reactors Initiatives** **8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**
 Address by Marvin Fertel, NEI — 30minutes
 Discussion — 15 minutes

3. **Technical Presentations** **9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

 Briefings on selected topics —Presentations plus 40 minutes of discussion

 Safety Goals for Generation 3+/4 reactors **9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m**
 (Todreas,)

 BREAK— **10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

 Licensing by test (Kadak) **10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m**

 NERI project on risk-informed regulation **11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**
 (Ritterbush, et al)

 LUNCH — **12:45 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.**

 Advanced safety concepts (Forsberg) **2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

 Regulatory framework for Generation 3+ **3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
 and 4 reactors (Floyd-NEI)

 BREAK— **4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

4. **ACRS and Panel Discussion with Audience Participation** — **4:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

 The panel will provide their individual views as to the most important regulatory challenges to the licensing of Generation 3+ and Generation 4 reactors. The panel members are asked to limit their selection to the most important three challenges. This will be followed by a discussion with audience participation.

 Makeup of discussion panel:
 N. Todreas
 R. Barrett, NRR
 E. Lyman, NCI
 NEI representative

6. **Conclusions:** (Apostolakis, Kress, et al) **6:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.**

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March 27, 2001

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MEMORANDUM TO: The Commissioners

FROM: John T. Larkins, Executive Director
 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
 Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

SUBJECT: SELF ASSESSMENT OF ACRS AND ACNW PERFORMANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Commission with the results of the ACRS and ACNW self assessment for Calendar Year 2000 and to describe the actions that the ACRS and ACNW will take as a result of this self assessment

BACKGROUND

In response to a draft circular from the Office of Management and Budget dated August 3, 1994, the ACRS and ACNW each reviewed its planned activities and developed performance measures and assessment standards. These were provided to the Commission in a February 14, 1995, memorandum. Subsequently, as part of the agency's strategic assessment, an issue paper was developed on independent oversight [COMSECY-96-028, Strategic Assessment Issue Paper. Independent Oversight (DSI-19)]. In a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of August 21, 1996, the Commission requested that the ACRS and the ACNW produce a set of criteria for Commission consideration, under which the performance of the Committees would be evaluated in the future. The Committees were directed to perform self assessments periodically and to provide the results of these evaluations to the Commission.

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I responded to this Commission request in a memorandum dated December 23, 1996. Subsequently, the Commission announced the development of an agency-wide Strategic Plan that included a requirement for each NRC office to prepare an Operating Plan. Because the requirements of the Operating Plan overlapped those of the August 21, 1996 SRM, I met with representatives of each Commissioner's Office to discuss performance criteria that would meet both the requirements of the SRM and the Strategic Plan initiative. It was agreed that the ACRS and the ACNW would prepare an Operating Plan that would include self-assessment criteria and other suggestions contained in the SRM.

I provided ACRS/ACNW self assessments to the Commission, which included the areas identified for improvement, on June 1, 1998, on June 18, 1999, and on May 5, 2000 (SECY-98-123, SECY-99-018, and SECY-00-0102). The June 18, 1999 report contained self assessment summary matrices of ACRS and ACNW letters and reports which provided concise evaluations of the effectiveness of these ACRS and ACNW activities. These matrices have proven useful in the self assessment process and in communicating with NRR, RES, and NMSS. We plan to continue to develop and use these matrices.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM PREVIOUS SELF ASSESSMENTS

I reported to the Commission on the results of the Committees' self assessments conducted in CY 1997, CY 1998, and CY 1999 and the areas identified for improvement (SECY-98-123, SECY-99-018, and SECY-00-0102). Feedback from the Commissioners and other stakeholders and the analysis provided in the ACRS and ACNW summary matrix for CY2000 were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Committee's work.

Both Committees have established the communications infrastructure needed to insure that Commission and EDO priorities are understood and are adequately considered in prioritizing Committee work. The Chairman's Tasking Memorandum, published NRC staff schedules, and discussions with Commissioners and their staff, the NRC staff, and other stakeholders were used to support this work. The ACRS and ACNW have members planning groups that review priorities and schedules in conjunction each Committee meeting. The ACNW has used its Action Plan to establish high-level priorities and updates this plan on an annual basis. The ACRS has recently developed an Action Plan for its CY 2001 and beyond activities and the ACNW has recently updated its Action Plan. Both plans have been provided to the Commission and the EDO for comment. After resolution of Commission and EDO feedback, the Action Plans will be posted on the ACRS/ACNW web site so that the content will be readily available to stakeholders. We are nearing completion of the development of a revised ACRS/ACNW Operating Plan which will incorporate an explanation of each Committee's mission and performance plans, performance reports, planned accomplishments, self assessments, and metrics. We plan to provide this new Operating Plan to the Commission by May 31, 2001, to maintain the Plan as a living document, and to provide updated revisions of the Plan to the Commission every six months.

An Action Plan for ACRS and ACNW increased involvement in decommissioning activities has been developed and provided to the Commission. The plan describes the split of responsibilities between the ACRS and the ACNW, the planned involvement of each Committee, and schedules.

The ACNW used its Action Plan to prioritize its activities during CY 2000. The feedback we received from the Commissioners and Commission staff indicated that the ACNW had addressed all of the Commission's priority interests that were within the scope of the ACNW's responsibilities. Feedback received from the Commissioners and other stakeholders was used in the ACNW's updated Action Plan. The ACNW will continue to work with the Commission offices to improve its information exchanges with the Commissioners during public meetings. During CY 2000 the Committee has used discussions with NRC staff, attendance at NRC/DOE meetings, and predecisional documents to stay currently informed. The new Memorandum of Understanding between the ACNW and the EDO (issued March 2001) establishes improved procedures for ACNW access to and use of predecisional documents.

ACNW will continue to use its available resources to make its meetings more accessible to its Nevada stakeholders and address public confidence issues. ACNW plans to continue to meet in Nevada near the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository site once a year and to make its Rockville, Maryland video teleconferencing link available to interested stakeholders.

The ACRS devoted significant resources in CY 2000 to work related to the Agency's initiatives for risk-informed regulation, license renewal, ACRS' annual review of NRC-sponsored research, transient and accident analysis codes, spent fuel pool accidents, and issues related to a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) on steam generator tube integrity. ACRS workload has been and is expected to continue to be high. An ACRS Action Plan for CY 2001 and beyond activities has been developed, has been provided to the Commissioners and the EDO for comment, and will be used to focus the use of ACRS resources. The ACRS has used its planning processes to focus its work on important technical areas where it is believed that

ACRS can add value and has minimized its involvement in routine and implementation activities. To conserve resources, the ACRS has developed a plan for streamlining its review of license renewals and will test and refine this plan in its ANO1 and Hatch license renewal application reviews. This plan has been provided to the Commission and the NRC staff.

A concern was raised by ACRS members and some stakeholders as to the large number of reviews that ACRS had engaged in during CY 99 to support Commission and staff requests. The Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (the ACRS's members' management subcommittee), which normally meets once a month to review ACRS plans and schedules has addressed this concern. The Subcommittee has systematically addressed prioritization of ACRS activities and how an ACRS review of a particular matter would add value to its resolution. ACRS experience and stakeholder feedback has led the Committee to conclude that the ACRS is the most effective when it performs in-depth review of important technical issues and minimizes its involvement in the resolution of routine regulatory matters or in the implementation of regulatory decisions. The Planning and Procedures Subcommittee has incorporated this principle in its oversight of Committee planning with the result that more routine matters were disposed of in CY 2000, without significant use of Committee resources. The areas on which ACRS will focus its resources were identified in the CY 2000 and CY 2001 ACRS retreats. The new ACRS Action Plan will also be used to focus ACRS reviews.

Stakeholders have indicated that it is important for the ACRS to be aware of plant operations issues taking into account the concerns of the regional offices and headquarters staff involved in the analysis of operating events, the industry and licensees, and public interest groups. To this end, the ACRS met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) senior management in CY 2000 to discuss matters of mutual interest and will continue to meet periodically with NEI in the future. The ACRS also met with a representative of the Union of Concerned Scientists to discuss the use of probabilistic risk analysis, and has involved representatives of other public interest groups in subcommittee discussions. The ACRS will continue to conduct its annual visits to an operating plant site and a Region's office and to attend NRC and stakeholder-sponsored meetings on plant operations issues. The ACRS will also remain informed as to the lessons-learned from foreign operating experience and schedule Committee discussions as needed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Both ACRS and ACNW conduct annual retreats during which the Committees review their agenda and methods of operation and set priorities for the future. The ACNW has also established the practice of developing a high-level Action Plan and providing this Plan to the Commission. The ACRS has adopted this practice and has developed an Action Plan for CY 2001 and beyond. The Committees solicit Commission and NRC staff feedback on these Action Plans. Both Committees review their schedules and priorities at each full Committee meeting and make adjustments as needed. Changes reflect communications with the Commission, the EDO, and cognizant NRC staff, and input from ACNW Working Groups and ACRS Subcommittee Chairmen. The Committees have instituted procedures for reviewing their activities and monitoring their performance during each of their meetings and have allocated

more resources to interacting with stakeholders and soliciting their views on Committee effectiveness. The ACRS/ACNW Office issues updates to the Office Operating Plan that reflect the ACRS and ACNW review plans, schedules, and longer term priorities. A new Operating Plan, which will include information on the ACRS and ACNW self-assessment and will track and evaluate related actions, will be provided to the Commission by 5/31/01. We plan to post the ACRS/ACNW Operating Plan and the Committee Action Plans on the ACRS/ACNW web page to make the information readily available to stakeholders.

The ACRS and ACNW carefully evaluate their letters and reports to determine whether they contain advice that addresses safety-significant issues and is (a) effective and timely, (b) technically sound and reflects state-of-the-art knowledge, (c) clear and concise, (d) relevant, balanced and unbiased, and (e) forward looking. The letters and reports are also assessed to determine whether they are responsive to Commission and staff needs, considered in Commission and staff decisions, and incorporated into NRC policies, programs, and regulations. These assessments have been based on the following:

1. Evidence that the advice was accepted or adopted
2. Solicited feedback from stakeholders
3. Unsolicited feedback.

Matrices in which the content and impact of ACRS and ACNW letters and reports are summarized were used in the CY 1998, CY 1999, and CY 2000 ACRS/ACNW self assessments. These matrices have proved to be valuable tools for the analysis of Committee

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effectiveness the identification of needed follow-up actions, and for the communication of information.

Feedback was solicited from a variety of stakeholders for the CY 1999 and CY 2000 self assessments and was a significant expansion of past similar efforts. The stakeholders interviewed included Commissioners, Commission staff, former ACRS members, NRC staff, staff from other Federal Government agencies, members of state and local governments, members of public interest groups, and members of the regulated industry. These interviews provided useful insights that were addressed by the ACRS and the ACNW during the Committee retreats.

RESULTS OF CY 2000 SELF ASSESSMENT

The ACNW held an annual planning meeting in January 2001, during which it assessed its priorities and operating processes. As part of its self assessment the ACNW, as it did for CY 1998 and CY 1999, prepared a matrix of its reports, assessing the effectiveness against the goals and objectives in its Action Plan. This matrix is included as Attachment 1. This self assessment has led ACNW to conclude that its advice is generally timely, is focused on the priority issues identified in the Action Plan, and is being used by the NRC staff and the Commission in their regulatory decisions. Interactions between the ACNW and its stakeholders have been open and professional and the ACNW is viewed as an important contributor to the open discussion of and resolution of issues. External stakeholders continue to comment very favorably on the ACNW's willingness to provide a forum for the discussion of their views and a window to Commission activities in waste management areas. The ACNW has issued its

updated Action Plan for CY 2001. The focus of the ACNW's efforts in CY 2001 will continue to be on high-level waste issues and decommissioning

The survey of ACNW stakeholders conducted for the CY 2000 self assessment was more limited than for the CY 1999 self assessment. I believe that this was an appropriate use of resources in view of the extensive survey conducted for CY 1999. Feedback received from stakeholders on the ACNW continued to be generally very positive. The ACNW reports were judged to be well written, to provide adequate explanations for the conclusions and recommendations, to be focused on relevant issues, and to continue to be of high-quality. The ACNW is viewed as providing valuable input to the solution of waste management safety issues. Feedback received from the Commission and Commission staff indicated that in CY 2000 the ACNW had addressed all of the Commission's priority interests that were within the scope of the ACNW's responsibility. Regular communications with the Commissioners and the EDO and the use of a published Action Plan help assure this result. The ACNW has worked with the NMSS staff in keeping itself currently informed through meetings with the NMSS staff and attendance at public meetings and through access to predecisional documents. The recently issued revised memorandum of understanding between the ACNW and the EDO contains guidance which will facilitate and improve ACNW access to and handling of predecisional documents.

The reaction of stakeholders to the ACNW's meetings in Nevada and interactions with Yucca Mountain stakeholders continues to be very positive, but with some comment as to a lack of observed impact of stakeholder input on ACNW positions. Some Nevada stakeholders continue to state that it would be useful if the ACNW met more frequently in Nevada. Because of resource constraints, the ACNW does not plan to have more than one meeting per year in

Nevada, but will make use of video teleconferencing to provide enhanced interactions with the Nevada stakeholders and, as suggested, evaluate the feasibility of providing Internet-based broadcasting of ACNW meetings. The ACNW Action Plans for CY 2000 and CY 2001 listed transportation issues as a priority item to a large extent because of expressed stakeholder concerns.

Some stakeholders believe that the ACNW needs a member or a regularly engaged consultant with strong health physics expertise. The current limitation of the ACNW to four members and the need for other types of expertise are factors that must be considered in ACNW appointments. ACNW will explore the appointment of a consultant or a fifth member with this expertise with the Commission in CY 2001.

The ACNW meetings are open and the agendas are published in the Federal Register and on the ACNW web site and are described in NRC press releases. All stakeholders can attend these meetings and address the Committee and frequently do so. The ACNW has contacted stakeholders and requested presentations related to stakeholder work on some topics. In CY 2001 the ACNW will, in its agenda planning, increase its taking of the initiative in soliciting the views of stakeholders who do not have direct involvement in performance of the work being reviewed by the ACNW.

The ACRS held a management meeting in January 2001 during which it, like the ACNW, assessed its priorities and operating processes. The ACRS has also developed a high-level Action Plan which it has provided to the Commission and the EDO and will use to guide its use of resources. As part of its self assessment ACRS prepared a matrix of its reports, which is

included as Attachment 2. This self assessment has led the ACRS to conclude that its reports are generally clear and have a positive impact on the regulatory process and address issues of importance to the Commission. Stakeholders view the ACRS as knowledgeable and fair in its consideration of different points of view and as having increased its focus on regulatory issues

The ACRS has focused its CY 2000 resources on in-depth reviews of important technical issues. Examples are risk-informed regulation initiatives, transient and accident analysis codes, license renewal applications, the annual research report to the Commission, power uprates, and issues related to the DPO on steam generator tube integrity. The ACRS work on the DPO was performed at the request of the EDO and was unbudgeted. This work, while successful, consumed significant resources and delayed the completion of other priority ACRS activities, such as the annual research report.

Stakeholders believe that interactions with the ACRS have been positive and professional and have provided constructive input. The NRC staff views the ACRS review as a means of validating and improving staff positions. Some stakeholders stated that the ACRS appreciation of regulatory issues has improved. Stakeholders believe that it is important that the ACRS provide advice that is readily understood and can be addressed and that ACRS should strive to provide possible solutions with its recommendations.

Some stakeholders stated that attention should be given to additional member preparation prior to ACRS meetings. It is generally believed that the ACRS should plan its work carefully and be sensitive to NRC staff schedules, but should take the time necessary to do in-depth, informed reviews. Early, pro-active ACRS input is believed to benefit the staff and support the efficient

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use of staff resources and to facilitate timely completion of ACRS reviews. The new memorandum of understanding between the ACRS and the EDO includes requirements for providing information to the ACRS on a schedule that will allow adequate time for member review. ACRS will continue to plan its reviews carefully to avoid unnecessary negative impact on staff schedules.

Feedback on the ACRS' annual report to the Commission on NRC-sponsored research has generally been positive. Activities associated with this report consume a significant amount of ACRS resources. After obtaining feedback on the CY 2001 report, the ACRS plans to evaluate the need for devoting the current level of resources to this report every year, develop recommendations for future reports, and seek the guidance of the Commission. The issues addressed will be report scope, frequency, and focus.

Some stakeholders have expressed a concern that the ACRS' early involvement in the NRC staff's development of a regulatory position either had or created the perception of a negative impact on ACRS independence. Other stakeholders believe that early involvement by the ACRS improved communications and provided ACRS input when it was the most efficient and effective. The NRC staff who worked with the ACRS or the ACNW on reviews in which there was early Committee involvement tended to be very positive as to the benefits of early Committee involvement in complex technical issues. The ACRS believes that the timing of ACRS involvement (early or otherwise) is a separate issue from ACRS independence and continues to believe that its early involvement is, in the balance, the best approach for the resolution of complex issues. The Committee has maintained and will continue to maintain an awareness of the need to preserve a level of independence in its reviews. Early involvement of

the ACRS in review of regulatory positions will be employed where the Commission or the Committee decides that this is effective. It does appear, however, that there will continue to be disagreement among stakeholders with regard to this issue.

The ACRS and many stakeholders believe that it is most effective when it involves itself in the resolution of broad technical issues such as the use of defense-in-depth and the development of a risk-informed 10CFR Part 50. The ACRS in CY 2000 looked for more opportunities to increase its involvement on important technical issues and to minimize its involvement in routine matters, such as process rules and regulatory guides addressing routine issues, and process issues. The ACRS identified areas in which it would focus its effort and used its Planning and Procedures Subcommittee to guide this effort and believes that this process facilitates success. The value that ACRS can add to resolution of an issue is systematically evaluated by the Subcommittee in its planning. ACRS will continue to use this process. Examples of new important technical issues which the ACRS will engage in CY 2001 are the licensing of Generation 4 reactors, the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility application, proposed MOX use in licensed commercial reactors, quantification of design margins, and an evaluation of 10 CFR 50 Appendices A and B.

SUMMARY

Results of the ACRS and ACNW self assessments have shown that both Committees add value to the regulatory process and contribute to the accomplishment of the NRC mission. Each Committee has, in response to the Commission's request, established goals for assessing its performance and has developed procedures for measuring the achievement of those goals.

The ACRS and ACNW have surveyed stakeholders, identified areas for improvement, and will take steps to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the ACRS and ACNW. These formal self assessments have been conducted on an annual basis since 1998. We believe that, to conserve resources, the interval can now be reasonably extended to two years with essentially equivalent benefits. The Committees will continue to monitor the efficiency of their operations and make improvements as warranted.

Attachments:

1. ACNW Summary Matrix
2. ACRS Summary Matrix

cc SECY
 EDO

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\SAVIO\selfassessment.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

OFFICE	Sr Tech Advsr.	ED/ACRS							
NAME	RPSavio	JTLarkins							
DATE	03/ /1	03/ /1							

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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ACRS SPECIAL TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT FORM

THIS FORM IS TO BE USED TO REQUEST ACRS ENDORSEMENT OF SPECIAL TRAVEL REQUESTS BY MEMBERS WHEN NRC SUPPORT FOR PARTIAL OR FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES AND/OR TIME IS DESIRED. THIS PROCEDURE IN NO WAY LIMITS THE FREEDOM OF A MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING AS AN INDIVIDUAL AT PERSONAL EXPENSE. PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE PLANNING AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION MAY BE ADDED AS DETAILS DEVELOP.

Member Name: F. Peter Ford Date Submitted: 03-28-01

Dates of Planned Trip: 23 April to 28 April.

Destination: Kyongju, S. Korea

Meeting or Facility to be Visited: International Cooperative Group on Environmentally-Assisted Cracking (ICGEAC)

Purpose/Relevance to ACRS Business: At the annual meetings of ICGEAC, all current aspects of environmentally assisted cracking in LWR's are raised & discussed, eg recent reactor accidents, data, data quality, codification, etc. Specific attention to cracking of S alloys, Low Alloy PV Steels, & irradiation cracking. All these activities relevant to safety evaluations & plant relicensing.

Participation (Invited Speaker, paper presented, etc.):
Executive Committee Member (immediate past chairman) following 23 years of membership

Justification (Foreign Travel Only): ICGEAC consists of 80+ member organizations from 15 countries including NRC (Musceva, Hill), ANL (Shack, Chora) & other regulators (SKI, HMNI), OEM's (GE W, Hitachi, KWU, Toshiba, etc), utilities (EPRI, TSC, EdF, etc), universities & national labs. A part from relevance issues mentioned above, this 24+ year old group offers unique opportunities for information relevant to international concerns on safety & relicensing.

NRC SUPPORT REQUESTED

Air Fare: Yes No

Per Diem: Yes No Days 6

Registration: \$ NO

Compensation: Yes No Days



SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
NUCLEAR MATERIALS LABORATORY

Korean National Research Laboratory on
Nuclear Materials Performance Verification
Head Prof. Il Soon Hwang

International Cooperative Group On Environmentally Assisted Cracking of Light Water Reactor Materials

January 26, 2001

Invitation to ICG-EAC Meeting

Dear ICG-EAC member,

The 2001 meeting will be held in Kyongju, Korea from April 23 to 27, 2001. It will be hosted by the Nuclear Materials Laboratory (SNUMAT) of Seoul National University (SNU). The co-ordinator arranging all practical details of the meeting is the Conference Office set up at SNUMAT.

The ICG-EAC Executive Committee is responsible for organizing the technical program and the Scientific Secretary (John Hickling) will get in touch with you about this at the beginning of March.

Delegate's registration will be handled by the Conference Office at SNUMAT. The office is also pleased to answer any questions dealing with hotel, meeting venue, and post-conference tours and social program.

The enclosed package includes the information on hotel, transportation and Conference Office, as well as the preliminary daily schedule, and is being mailed to you as the designated contact person for your organization by the secretary of the ICG-EAC Group together with his annual invoice for the membership fees. Please take care of the appropriate internal distribution within your organization.

Yours Sincerely,

Il Soon Hwang
Nuclear Materials Laboratory,
Department of Nuclear Engineering,
Seoul National University

ENCLOSURES

Invitation package

~~CMG invoice for annual ICG membership fee~~

ICG-EAC 2001

Group Meeting Information

Meeting Dates April 23 - 27, 2001

Accommodation and Venue Kyongju Education & Culture Center at Bomoon Danji
150-2 Shinpyong-dong,
Kyongju-city, Kyongsangbuk-do,
Korea
Telephone* : +82-54-748-0820
Fax: +82-54-748-8394

Registration Conference Office/ICG-EAC,
Mr Seung Ho Jeong
Room 39-120, Nuclear Materials Laboratory
Seoul National University
56-1 Shinlim-dong, Gwanak-ku
Seoul, 151-742, Republic of Korea

Telephone* : +82-2-880-7200
Cellular Phone. +82-17-391-0331
Fax: +82-2-3285-9600
E-mail : snumat@plaza.snu.ac.kr

We are looking forward to receiving your registration form at the latest by February 28, 2001.

Daily Program

Morning Sessions 08.30-12.00, coffee break 10.00-10.30
Afternoon Sessions 13.00-17.30, coffee break 15.00-15.30

Breakfast 07:00-08:30
Lunch 12:00-13:00

Registration

Sunday 22 April 19.00-20.00 Registration and Welcoming Drinks
at the Venue**

Monday 23 April 07:30-08.30 Registration at the Venue

Social Events

Tuesday 24 April 19:00 Reception Dinner with Korean Folk Show**

Thursday 26 April 16:00 Bulkuksa Tour and Dinner in Downtown**

Spousal program at Own Cost (please refer to the tour program/registration form on page 9)

Post-Conference Tour at Own Cost (please refer to the tour program on page 10 and the registration form on page 11)

*When you place a call from inside Korea, the area code is 0+ one or two digits (boldfaced digits in numbers on this page) following the country code(+82).

**Sponsored by KEPCO, KAERI, KOPEC as well as SNUMAT.

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ICG-EAC

23-27 April, 2001, Kyongju, Korea

Registration Form

Registration deadline : February 28, 2001

Please return to : Conference Office/ICG-EAC
 Nuclear Materials Laboratory
 Room 39-120, Seoul National University
 56-1 Shinlim-Dong, Gwanak-Gu, Seoul, 151-742, Korea
 Fax +82-2-3285-9600 Tel +82-2-880-7200
 E-mail : snumat@plaza.snu.ac.kr

Delegate

Surname: FORD	First name: PETER	MI: PAE MsD
Organization: GENERAL ELECTRIC (RETIRED), CONSULTANT		
Address: 19, HOTT ROAD .		
Postal code: NY 12148	City: REX FORD	Country: USA
Telephone 518 399 3264	Fax:	E-mail: spctford@aol.com
Accompanying person's name(s):		

Hotel Accommodation

I wish to book accommodation at Kyongju Education and Culture Center.	
150-2 Shinpyong-dong, Kyongju-city, Kyongsangbuk-do, Korea Tel : +82-54-748-0820 Fax : +82-54-748-8394	
The conference package rate (Nights of Sunday 22 April through Thursday 26 April, 2001.)	
Single or Double room: US\$ 120 per night for 5 nights	
Pre- & Post- conference rate	
Single or Double room 69,575 Won per night for 2 nights (approx US\$ 53 per night*)	
FRIDAY 27TH / SAT	
Payments at hotel in <input type="checkbox"/> cash or by <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> credit card (Visa, Amex, <u>Mastercard</u>)	
Preferred room type: <input type="checkbox"/> Twin bed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double bed <input type="checkbox"/> Ondol (Korean heated floor) room	
Check-In Date 22 APRIL	Check-Out Date: 30 APRIL
Estimated arrival time: 9^{PM} AT ULSAN (ASIANA 8617)	
Date:	Signature

*Note: The exchange rate as of January 15, 2001 was 1,308 Won for US \$1.00. It is estimated that the rate will be similar at the time of ICG-EAC meeting.

AIRFARE **3,260**

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ACRS SPECIAL TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT FORM

THIS FORM IS TO BE USED TO REQUEST ACRS ENDORSEMENT OF SPECIAL TRAVEL REQUESTS BY MEMBERS WHEN NRC SUPPORT FOR PARTIAL OR FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES AND/OR TIME IS DESIRED. THIS PROCEDURE IN NO WAY LIMITS THE FREEDOM OF A MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING AS AN INDIVIDUAL AT PERSONAL EXPENSE. PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE PLANNING AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION MAY BE ADDED AS DETAILS DEVELOP.

Member Name: GEORGE APOSTOLAKIS Date Submitted: 4/5/01

Dates of Planned Trip: May 30, 2001 to June 1, 2001

Destination: Irvine, California

Meeting or Facility to be Visited: _____

Purpose/Relevance to ACRS Business: _____

To discuss future developments and plans for the use of PRA in regulatory decisionmaking.

Participation (Invited Speaker, paper presented, etc.): _____

B. John Garrick, ACNW Chairman, NRC Chairman Meserve Chauncy Starr, EPRI

Justification (Foreign Travel Only): _____

High priority issue for ACRS

NRC SUPPORT REQUESTED

Air Fare: Yes X No _____

Per Diem: Yes X No _____ Days _____

Registration: \$ _____

Compensation: Yes X No _____ Days _____