REQUEST REPLY BY: 11/14/01

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

COMSECY-01-0031

November 5, 2001

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

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: YUCCA MOUNTAIN REVIEW PLAN

As the Commission is aware, allegations recently came into the public domain that the NRC released the draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan (YMRP) to the Department of Energy, but not to the State of Nevada, other interested participants or the public. The staff has information validating that the draft YMRP has been released. The draft YMRP was prepared by the NRC staff and submitted to the Commission last year (SECY-00-0187). The draft YMRP predates the Commission's regulations for a possible Yucca Mountain repository (i.e., 10 CFR Part 63). Part 63 has since been finalized and published in the Federal Register. Staff is revising the draft YMRP to bring it up to date and to be consistent with Part 63.

In light of foregoing, staff believes it would be in the public interest to immediately place the draft YMRP on the NRC web site. Specifically, given the allegations, staff believes that making the draft YMRP available on the web would help minimize any potential impacts that may have occurred due to a possible premature release of the draft YMRP to DOE, but not to the State, other interested participants or the public.

In making the document available, staff will explain that the draft YMRP is undergoing revision to bring it up to date and to be consistent with NRC's final regulations for a possible Yucca Mountain repository. Staff will indicate that public comments are not being sought at this time on the draft YMRP. Staff will also make reference to its present plan to publish the YMRP for public comment, at a future date, after staff completes the revisions.

SECY, please track.

cc: SECY
OCA
OGC
OPA
CFO

CONTACTS: C.W. Reamer, NMSS/DWM
(301) 415-6537

SENSITIVE INFORMATION-LIMITED TO NRC UNLESS THE COMMISSION DETERMINES OTHERWISE

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