

July 25, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers */RA by Patricia Norry Action For/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF SEMIANNUAL REPORTS INSTEAD OF
QUARTERLY REPORTS AND UTILIZATION OF NRC WEBSITE
TO UPDATE THE PUBLIC ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
CONTROLLING THE DISPOSITION OF SOLID MATERIALS

To facilitate the decision-making process on alternatives for controlling the disposition of solid materials that have no, or very small amounts of, radioactivity, staff has been evaluating the considerable information collection effort that has been, and is being, conducted. This information collection effort was undertaken in order to enhance participatory rulemaking in this area.

Previously, quarterly reports have been used by the staff as a mechanism to routinely inform the Commission of the status of major items related to NRC's rulemaking. However, there is often an insufficient amount of information to include in the report to the Commission because of the short three month time frame in which a quarterly report is prepared to document the activities that occur. Quarterly reports were initiated at the request of the Commission in accordance with the August 18, 2000, Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) in which the staff was asked to provide quarterly reports of activities while the National Academies' study was underway. In a July 2002 Commission Paper (SECY-02-0133), the staff anticipated extending the Quarterly Report process for keeping the Commission and the public informed of the status of technical bases development and other related factors. This was noted in the footnote of the January 27, 2003, SRM. However, as noted above, the staff believes that the quarterly report process is inefficient. Instead, the staff proposes to keep the Commission informed of activities on a semiannual basis.

The staff will also provide the Commission with pertinent documents on a timely basis. For example, the staff recently sent a summary of the May 21-22, 2003, workshop to the Commission through the assistant to the Executive Director for Operations. Other major items, such as a more detailed summary of the workshop, will be sent to the Commission in the upcoming months. In addition, the scoping comment letters and scoping report will be among the major items addressed in the upcoming semiannual report. The scoping report will be available in fall 2003 and will address the large number of scoping comments.

The staff will continue to follow the October 25, 2002, SRM direction to use a more web-based approach for keeping the public informed of activities related to controlling the disposition of solid materials. Information on documents prepared, opportunities for stakeholder input, and links to other related documents can be found at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) website that the staff maintains on disposition of solid materials (www.nrc.gov/materials.html) (under "Key Topics," link to "Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials"). Because this site is updated frequently, the staff believes it is an efficient and effective method for keeping the public informed of the status of major items. Relevant documents and actions are and will continue to be posted on the website.

SECY please track.

cc: SECY
 OGC
 OCA
 OPA
 CFO

CONTACT: Kim Karcagi, NMSS/IMNS
 (301) 415-6701

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