

September 26, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael L. Springer, Director
Office of Administration

FROM: Roy P. Zimmerman, Director /RA/
Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE

I request that the Office of Administration (ADM), Division of Facilities and Security, reallocate space on the second floor of the One White Flint Building to accommodate the expansion of the Secure Commission Conference Room (O2-D10) and the space in O2-D6.

The current conference room and Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) were constructed in 1987 along with space for the Secure Communications Center (COMCTR). As you know, the COMCTR quickly outgrew its space due to the addition of multiple secure systems within a relatively short time and was extended to cover the entire area between the B and D corridors. The conference room and Special Security Office (SSO) facility have remained relatively constant since 1987 except for an interior refurbishment.

When built, the Commission Conference Room could accommodate approximately half (30-35) of the cleared individuals at any one time. The number of individuals with access to sensitive compartmented information (SCI) remained relatively stable at 60-70 people until the events of September 11, 2001. Since then, the number of classified meetings and the number of NRC employees required to attend these meetings have increased dramatically. The number of individuals now cleared for SCI is at an all time high of 135 people, with another 20 accesses in process. It has become the norm to have standing room only at recent meetings.

The NRC's intelligence program and secure systems have grown exponentially, as evidenced by the requirements to construct an entirely new SCIF in the Two White Flint building (TWFN). The conference room in the TWFN SCIF is significantly smaller than the existing facility in OWFN so it will not serve to alleviate any of the issues discussed here. While the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) is mindful of the strict compartmentation of SCI information and the requirement to keep access to the minimum necessary to accomplish the NRC's functions, it has become necessary for many additional offices, organizations, and other agencies to have access to this information and to participate in meetings at the SCI level. In addition to the numbers of people requiring accommodation, the Commission has requested, and NSIR is pursuing, the addition of secure video teleconferencing capability in the SCIF by December 2003. We have also added secure voice systems, such as the Defense Red Switched Network to the conference room. Even though some components of these encrypted systems are located to the contiguous COMCTR, the footprint of other secure system components required to be in the conference room take up already limited seating space.

NSIR proposes that the space directly behind the current facilities, extending to the B corridor, be reallocated to NSIR and upgraded to SCIF standards. This space is currently occupied by the Administrative Services Center, a unit which belongs to ADM. We believe that this plan would minimize the amount of construction needed, thus minimizing the expense. We believe that a new exterior wall could be constructed up to the existing perimeter, and then the existing wall of the current secure area could be demolished, thus minimizing the impact and “down time” on the operational functions of these facilities. Having this additional space will permit the Information Security Staff to reconfigure the space and relieve some of the pressure on each of the current secure facilities located in OWFN.

We request that this upgrade be accomplished at the earliest possible time to ensure that the NRC is well positioned to have access to the classified information and systems necessary to perform its functions in the post 9/11 environment. While we are convinced that this would be the best manner of obtaining the additional space so badly needed, we would be happy to entertain other options that you may deem appropriate, and are prepared to discuss this issue with you or your representatives at your earliest convenience. My point of contact for this project is A. Lynn Silvius, Chief Information Security Section, who may be contacted on X2214.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: TMartin, ADM/DFS

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