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

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

November 23, 1987

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cc.

Other: Jesse F.
Peter M.
Sam J.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Zech

FROM: Kenneth M. Carr

SUBJECT: COMLZ-87-59 - NRC FIVE-YEAR PLAN

I agree with your comments in COMLZ-87-59 and have the following additional views:

General Comment

1. I agree wholeheartedly that some prioritization of agency tasks is necessary if the Commission is to make the best decisions concerning the application of limited agency resources. It should be emphasized that the prioritization be both within and among the major offices.

Reactor Safety and Safeguards Regulation

1. I agree that development of a proposed rule in the maintenance area needs to be reflected in the planning. Also, considering the importance the Commission has placed on improving plant maintenance, it is apparent that insufficient resources have been allocated to this area.

2. In view of the increased emphasis on improving operator license examinations, the decrease in FTEs from FY 88 to FY 89 has not been adequately explained. Also, improving examiner credibility may result in additional program support. It is not clear that additional resources have been included for this purpose.

Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Regulation

1. I am concerned with the conservative planning of resources within NMSS. For example:

   - License renewal reviews will not incorporate findings from the operational safety team assessments.

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- License renewal reviews will not address new regulations such as the basic and comprehensive quality assurance requirements for medical use.

- There is a delay in the development of performance indicators for non-reactor licensees.

The Five-Year Plan appears to back away or delay Commission commitments made in response the the MSRRSG and the Synar reports.

Nuclear Waste Regulation

1. A pattern of conservative planning, similar to that described above, is evident in the waste program. For example:

   - Review of final SCPs are budgeted over the period 89-91 rather than the simultaneous review DOE has indicated. We should continue to budget for the current NWPA of 1982.

   - Limited resources are budgeted for review of topical reports for licensing an MRS despite the fact that three MRS sites are possible.

   The above conservatism seems inconsistent with the approach in the reactors area where, for example, resources are budgeted for yet to be identified safety issues.

Nuclear Safety Research

1. There are many references in this section to measuring licensee performance to determine if it meets the Commission's safety goal. The Commission clearly stated that safety goals were to be used to assess our regulations, not licensee performance.

Nuclear Safety Management and Support Mission Area

Executive Director for Operations:

1. The increase in program support between FYs 88 and 91 should be supported in the Narrative.

Consolidation Program:

1. Program planning assumptions for Two White Flint North should be revised to reflect that the Park and Planning Commission meeting has already been held.

Additional editorial or structural suggestions have been provided to Lloyd Donnelly of your staff.

Kenneth M. Carr

cc: Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Rogers
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