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

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WMPI: 410.9

MEMORANDUM FOR: Guy H. Cunningham, Executive Legal Director
John G. Davis, Director, NMSS
Harold G. Denton, Director, NRR
Richard DeYoung, Director, I&E
G. Wayne Kerr, Director, OSP
Robert B. Minogue, Director, RES
James R. Shea, Director, IP

FROM: William J. Dircks, Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: NRC ACTIONS REQUIRED BY ENACTMENT OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1982

With the President's signature on January 7, 1983, NRC is required to act on a number of provisions in the above law under relatively short time deadlines. NRC actions under the law fall within four Program Areas: Waste Management; Fuel Cycle and Material Safety and Transportation; Human Factors; and Reactor License Reviews. See Enclosure 1 for the Program Area and lead NRC Office that have been tasked for the NRC actions specifically required by the new statute within the next fifteen months.

In order to brief the Chairman on January 26, I expect that each lead Office will coordinate with other affected Offices and provide the Progam Area Manager its plan to address the statutory requirements presented in Enclosure 1 by cob, January 21, 1983.

The plan should, among other things, identify the principal staff contacts within the lead and coordinating Offices, and establish systems by which the Program Area Manager will receive copies of relevant correspondence and periodic updates of lead and coordinating Office activities concerning the action to be taken. Each Program Area Manager shall submit to me by February 15 his recommendations for accomplishing these actions, along with any differing lead Office views.

The new law also requires a number of other NRC actions, some of which do not have deadlines, but are apparently intended to be implemented in a timely manner. In the attached copy of the legislative text, the NRC Program Area and lead and coordinating Offices are indicated for each provision requiring NRC action. By March 1, the designated lead Offices

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should submit to the appropriate Program Area Manager their plans to implement each of these provisions. Adequate time for EDO/Commission review, as appropriate, should be set aside in establishing a final due date. In order that I may have one point that will maintain a general status knowledge of the actions of the four Program Areas, I am assigning to the Waste Management (WM) Program Area the responsibility to remain generally current on all actions required of the NRC by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. So that the WM Program Area can fulfill this responsibility, the designated lead Offices should provide copies to the Division of Waste Management of the plans and any status reports provided to their appropriate Program Area Managers. Also the WM Program Area has the overall responsibility to coordinate the January 26 briefing for the Chairman and any subsequent overall reports on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

If any issues arise needing my attention concerning agency actions under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, please promptly bring them to my attention.

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:
1. Program Area and lead NRC Office assignments
2. Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982