

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE  
REFER TO: M040304

March 12, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary **/RA/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NMSS PROGRAMS,  
PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS - WASTE SAFETY, 1:30  
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004, COMMISSIONERS'  
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the waste safety programs, performance, and plans in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. As additional information becomes available, the staff should provide the Commission with more information on the resolution of resource challenges presented by the Department of Energy's (DOE) likely application for transportation cask certification and other anticipated resource intensive programs. The staff should consult with the Office of the General Counsel to clarify NRC's role and responsibilities for participating in DOE's effort to develop an Environmental Impact Statement on greater than class C (GTCC) waste disposal.

The staff should promptly inform the Commission of potential policy issues arising in the various waste safety programs. Additionally, policy issues should be clearly identified in separate sections of papers submitted to the Commission.

The staff should reiterate to DOE that NRC needs early quality submittals for the remaining Key Technical Issue Agreements in anticipation of its application for a high-level waste repository.

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
OGC  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG  
OPA  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR