

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M040504B

May 27, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON RESULTS OF THE
AGENCY ACTION REVIEW MEETING, 9:30 A.M., TUESDAY,
MAY 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 results of the Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM). The Commission identified the following items for staff follow-up:

1. In developing improved, risk-informed, performance indicators (PIs), the staff should try to recover the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) efforts before initiating new efforts. The staff should work with stakeholders to develop clear requirements for PIs to enable them to be indicative of performance within the related cornerstone of safety.
2. The staff should continue efforts to better define thresholds for identifying and responding to substantive cross-cutting issues.
3. The Commission supports the flexibility provided in the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) to allow deviations from the action matrix when senior managers find such deviations appropriate. When deviations occur, the staff should evaluate the causes for the deviations and identify changes to ROP, as appropriate, that may obviate the need for them in the future. This should be done as part of the staff's ROP self-assessment to ensure that the ROP meets the Agency's performance goals. Substantive changes should be provided to the Commission for approval prior to incorporation into the ROP.
4. The staff should inform the Commission when deviations from the action matrix are granted and highlight nuclear power plants (NPPs) for which such deviations are granted at the annual AARM Commission meeting.
5. As part of the normal self-assessment process, the staff should improve the standardization and transparency of the process for NPPs to exit from increased oversight columns in the action matrix. Additionally, the staff should standardize the process for requesting and documenting deviations from the action matrix.

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