

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M041108AB

November 17, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON PLANT AGING AND
MATERIALS DEGRADATION, 9:00 A.M./1:30 P.M., MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 8, 2004, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

In the morning session, the Commission was briefed by representatives of the nuclear power industry and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the industry's initiatives in the management of materials issues. In the afternoon, NRC staff briefed the Commission on its reactor oversight and research programs that address materials degradation issues.

The staff's goal should continue to be a proactive program to predict future degradation and initiate regulatory action where appropriate. The staff should continue developing cooperative, integrated research programs that set priorities in a risk-informed manner. The staff should continue to pursue collaborative and complementary research programs with industry and foreign entities in order to benefit from their work and share the results of our work in the area of materials degradation. To the extent allowed (e.g., 10 CFR 2.390), the staff should conduct these activities consistent with the Agency's strategic goal to ensure openness in our regulatory process.

The industry and NRC staff should provide a briefing in approximately one year, to update the Commission on the status of their efforts to address materials degradation, including any regulatory action taken in response to items identified in the industry's materials issue programs. This briefing should also address how industry's mandatory and needed implementation categories are to be treated in regulatory space. Before the next briefing, the staff should provide the Commission with information copies of the draft reports on its implementation of the Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) program and its assessment of the safety significance of various forms of materials degradation.

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