

November 23, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons

FROM: Luis A. Reyes */RA Martin J. Virgilio Acting For/*  
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT - BROADCASTING OF COMMISSION  
MEETINGS OVER THE INTERNET

In response to SECY-01-0077, "Broadcasting of Commission Meetings Over the Internet," the Commission issued a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) dated June 7, 2001, approving the broadcast of live and archived Commission meetings for viewing on the Internet. The SRM directed the staff to report to the Commission annually on Webcast system usage and associated program costs. This memorandum provides the report for FY 2005.

During FY 2005, 23 Commission meetings were broadcast live over the Internet, and an archived version of each meeting was subsequently made available for delayed viewing. Also during this period, the opening remarks and Commission Plenary Sessions at the 2005 NRC Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) were made available for archived viewing.

As illustrated in Enclosure 1, audiences for both the live and archived Webcasts continued to grow during FY 2005, with non-NRC viewers comprising the larger increase. During FY 2005, NRC Webcasts attracted 5,168 viewers. It should be noted that because many system firewall protection schemes prevent identifying multiple hits by the same viewer, these unique viewer statistics are only approximate. The 5,168 viewers in FY 2005 represent an increase of 87% over the viewers in FY 2004, a 164% increase over the viewers in FY 2003, and a 235% increase over the viewers who watched NRC's Webcasts in FY 2002. Further, as reflected in Enclosure 2, these significant increases in total viewers have occurred without a substantial rise in the number of meetings Webcast annually.

In Enclosure 3, the size of the viewing audience for each FY 2005 live and archived Webcast is provided, with a breakout of the NRC and non-NRC viewers.

In Enclosure 4, a graphic breakdown of the major affiliations of the NRC's Webcast audience is outlined, as identified in the Webcast survey responses received in FY 2005. The affiliations continue to reflect a diverse audience of NRC and other Government staff, utility personnel, public interest groups, and the general public.

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The total annual cost for the Webcast services in FY 2005 was \$121,470, which is \$7,410 less than the FY 2004 total cost of \$128,880. This reduction is primarily due to the decrease in monthly fixed-fees for the Webcast system that were negotiated into the option years of the current Webcast support contract. The Webcast support contract is now in its first of 4 option years. The FY 2005 total cost includes \$16,150 to add closed captioning to 23 of the 24 Webcasts, an average of \$702 per meeting.

Enclosure 5 provides a breakdown of the additional per-meeting cost for each Webcast to be closed captioned (captioning is provided by a separate contractor). Closed captioning was added to the Webcasts to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In accordance with the SRM dated June 7, 2001, the staff has provided an annual report to inform the Commission of the costs and use of the Webcast system. The FY 2005 data demonstrates the continued growth in viewer activity and that this medium is being used by the public and stakeholders to observe the Commission's activities. The use of Webcasting by both the private sector and Government is expanding rapidly and has become an effective communication tool.

Based on the FY 2005 data, we anticipate future continued growth in the number of viewers, and no significant cost impacts with the provision of this service. Therefore, with the Commission's approval, the staff plans to eliminate future submission of this report and obtain future Commission direction on the continuation of the Webcasting program as part of the annual budget process. SECY please track.

Enclosures:

1. FY 2002-2005 Total Annual Viewer Statistics Comparison
2. Total Annual Meetings Webcast Comparison
3. FY 2005 Viewing Audience Breakdown Per Meeting
4. FY 2005 Webcast Survey Responders' Viewer Affiliation Breakdown
5. FY 2005 Cost Per Meeting To Caption Webcasts

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Enclosures:

5. FY 2002-2005 Total Annual Viewer Statistics Comparison
6. Total Annual Meetings Webcast Comparison
7. FY 2005 Viewing Audience Breakdown Per Meeting
8. FY 2005 Webcast Survey Responders' Viewer Affiliation Breakdown
5. FY 2005 Cost Per Meeting To Caption Webcasts

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