

January 08, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Martin J. Virgilio
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,
Research, State, Tribal and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director of Operations

FROM: Jack R. Strosnider, Director */RA/*
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CORE U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION TRAVEL AND TRAINING FOR
SENIOR-LEVEL STAFF

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for core travel to Denver, Colorado by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Senior-Level staff and participation in an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) training class, on *Leadership Skills for Non-Supervisors*.

Dr. Brittain E. Hill and Dr. Mahendra J. Shah recently were appointed as Senior Level Advisors in the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety (HLWRS), the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). They serve as technical leads for the HLWRS science and engineering staff and must integrate key programmatic and regulatory issues across all administrative groups. Their overall effectiveness, and the success of HLWRS, depends on their abilities to lead a diverse group of professionals towards a technical and regulatory consensus. The knowledge provided by the OPM class is needed today in HLWRS, so that Drs. Hill and Shah can better prepare our staff for the Yucca Mountain license application that is anticipated no later than June 2008.

The December 21, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations Memorandum directs offices to defer all non-mission critical 368 training not related to the Leadership Potential Program, Senior Executive Services Candidate Program, or formal reviewer/inspector qualification programs. Although this training is not associated with a formal qualification program, per Manual Chapter-1246, NMSS management strongly believes this training is essential to meeting a critical technical leadership skill required for the program. Therefore, NMSS considers the OPM Leadership class for Drs. Hill and Shah to be mission critical based on the technical leadership requirements of HLWRS. Because of the importance of this training, Drs. Hill and Shah were approved to participate in this OPM class in November 2006. HLWRS funds were obligated to OPM at that time, and those funds will not be refunded by OPM.

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The direct cost of the week-long OPM class is \$3,300 per participant, which includes meals and lodging. Travel costs are approximately \$450. Currently, Dr. Hill is registered for the January 28, 2007, session and Dr. Shah for the March 5, 2007, session.

cc: E. Leeds, NMSS
D. Pstrak, NMSS
A. Bradford, DEDO
J. Dunn Lee, OIP
J. Scharzman, OIP
S. Cornell, PBPA

/RA/ 1/10/07

Approved By: Martin J. Virgilio

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DATE	01/05/07	01/05/07	01/05/07	01/ 08 /07

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