



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 29, 2007

SECRETARY

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-07-0091

TITLE: INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE
SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION
TO INVITE AN INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
SERVICE MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of June 29, 2007.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook".

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
OGC
EDO
PDR

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-07-0091

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. KLEIN	X				X	6/22/07
COMR. McGAFFIGAN	X				X	6/20/07
COMR. MERRIFIELD	X				X	6/18/07
COMR. JACZKO	X				X	6/20/07
COMR. LYONS	X				X	6/18/07

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, all Commissioners approved the staff's recommendation and provided some additional comments. Subsequently, the comments of the Commission were incorporated into the guidance to staff as reflected in the SRM issued on June 29, 2007.

NOTATION VOTE
RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: CHAIRMAN KLEIN

SUBJECT: SECY-07-0091 - INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
SERVICE SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND
RECOMMENDATION TO INVITE AN INTEGRATED
REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE MISSION TO THE
UNITED STATES

Approved Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached None _____



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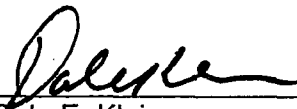
6/22/07

DATE

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Chairman Klein's Comments on SECY-07-0091

I compliment the NRC interoffice Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) self-assessment team for their insightful assessment of NRC's regulatory structure related to power reactors and for providing substantive recommendations that, if implemented well, could greatly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of all our regulatory processes, and not just the work we do in the power reactor arena. The honest and fairminded assessment that this team has produced is an excellent start to the kind of self-assessment that the IRRS, in my view, intends to effectuate to the participating regulatory authorities. Subjecting the NRC to an IRRS mission would not only serve as an opportunity to gain insights for improving our regulatory programs and processes, but it would also allow us to engage in new ways to continue our positive influence in promoting international nuclear safety. Therefore, I approve the staff to coordinate with the Department of State and the IAEA to invite an IRRS mission focused on power reactors to the U.S. in CY2010. I also approve the staff recommendation to invite a small international peer review group, under our bilateral agreements, to review NRC's ongoing self-assessment activities prior to the U.S. IRRS mission.


Dale E. Klein 6/22/07
Date

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

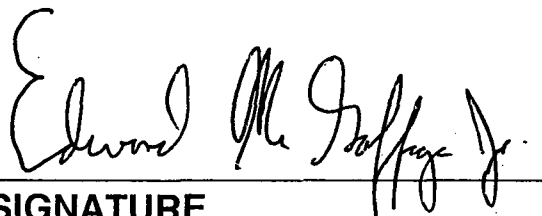
FROM: COMMISSIONER MCGAFFIGAN

SUBJECT: SECY-07-0091 - INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
SERVICE SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND
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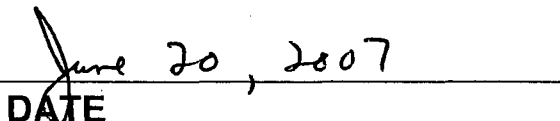
Approved Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached None _____



SIGNATURE



DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes No _____

Commissioner McGaffigan's Comments on SECY-07-0091

I am concerned about the proposed timing of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission focused on power reactors in CY 2010. In light of the ongoing challenges in demographics facing the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and other major program offices involved with power reactor regulation, and in light of the large new reactor workload, it may be more prudent to delay the IRRS mission to CY 2011.

I am also concerned that advanced countries may be utilizing too high a percentage of IAEA's resources for IRRS missions. Because these missions thus far have largely validated the regulatory regimes of the advanced countries who have received them, the IAEA IRRS program may find greater opportunities to have a real impact on safety in countries with less developed and lower resourced regulatory programs.

If the staff feels that they really can support a CY 2010 IRRS mission, despite our demographic and workload challenges, and that we will not be delaying IRRS missions to countries more in need of such missions, I can support the staff's two recommendations as written. But I would hope that my two concerns would be addressed before a final commitment is made on the date of the IRRS mission.

Finally, I want to commend the IRRS self-assessment team for the very frank report which they have provided. I am not sure, however, that many of the 12 high-level recommendations in this report are ready for inclusion in the U.S. National Report to the 2008 Convention on Nuclear Safety Review Meeting. Since the draft National Report will be presented to the Commission, presumably shortly, for its review, I will simply note that the 12 recommendations go to a level of detail well-beyond previous U.S. National Reports and have yet to be endorsed by the EDO, let alone the Commission.



Edward McGaffigan, Jr.

6/20/07

(Date)

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD

SUBJECT: SECY-07-0091 - INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
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Approved Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached None _____



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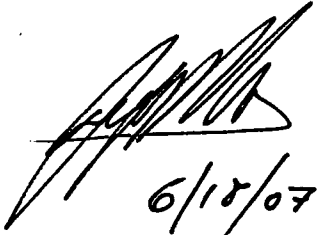
6/18/07

DATE

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Commissioner Merrifield's comments on SECY-07-0091:

I approve the staff's recommendation to coordinate with the State Department and the International Atomic Energy Agency to invite an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission focused on power reactors to the United States in 2010. Resources necessary to support the IRRS mission should be addressed through the Fiscal Year 2010 budget process.



6/18/07

NOTATION VOTE
RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

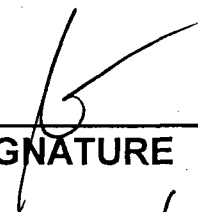
FROM: COMMISSIONER JACZKO

SUBJECT: SECY-07-0091 - INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
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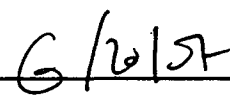
Approved X Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached X None _____



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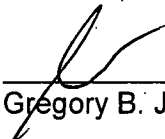
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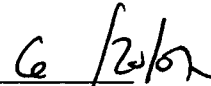
**Commissioner Jaczko's Comments on SECY-07-0091
Integrated Regulatory Review Service Self-assessment Results and Recommendation to
Invite an Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission to the United States**

I support the staff's proposal to coordinate with the Department of State and the IAEA to invite an IRRS mission to the United States in 2010. I also support the staff inviting a small international peer review group, under our bilateral agreements, to review our ongoing self assessment activities and preparations for the IRRS mission. I believe this will not only provide tangible benefits to the agency, but will also demonstrate our commitment to continued international cooperation and support.

The staff should keep the Commission informed on the status of the actions the staff intends to take based upon the recommendations of the IRRS self assessment team.



Gregory B. Jaczko



Date

NOTATION VOTE

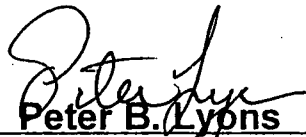
RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER LYONS
SUBJECT: SECY-07-0091 - INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW
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UNITED STATES

Approved X Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached X None _____



Peter B. Lyons

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6/18/07

DATE

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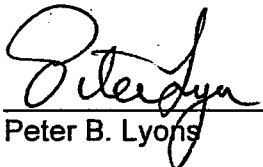
Commissioner Lyons' Comments on SECY-07-0091

I strongly support a proposal to invite an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission focused on nuclear power reactors to the United States in 2010. IRRS missions can be a valuable and useful exercise. Depending on its scope and focus, an IRRS can provide an international perspective of our regulatory infrastructure and safety practices and of our ability to objectively conduct self-assessment and self-improvement activities. For example, the ASN recently hosted the first, full-scope IRRS in France in November 2006. In our discussions with the ASN representatives, they noted that although the process was resource intensive, required detailed coordination and logistics planning, and sometimes required translation and interpretation services, they acknowledged the benefits of operating in a peer review environment that contributes to continuous improvement of the agency. I recognize that changing the review focus of IRRS missions from prescriptive reviews against IAEA requirements to assessing the capability of regulatory authorities to conduct self-assessment and implement appropriate corrective actions is still under development. However, I believe U.S. influence can help reshape the focus and process of IRRS reviews by 2010 by actively supporting IRRS missions in other countries.

The IRRS program is also important for the enhancement of nuclear safety and radiation protection worldwide and can contribute to the "harmonization" of regulatory approaches on an international scale. Other countries that have recently hosted IRRS missions include the United Kingdom and Romania, and preparations are being made for IRRS missions in Japan, Australia, Pakistan, and Spain. In addition, Mexico has requested an IRRS mission in 2007, the United Kingdom has signaled its intent to invite a second-phase IRRS mission, and China has indicated its interest in an IRRS mission. The U.S. cannot continue to remain indecisive in light of the international ground swell of support for IRRS missions for long.

The NRC has already taken the first steps in preparing for an IRRS in its recently completed IRRS self-assessment. The results appear to indicate that NRC's regulatory and management processes are consistent with international practices, but that there is still room for improvement in NRC's ability to critically self-assess itself. Additionally, an IRRS mission in the U.S. may provide the impetus for the NRC to carefully examine how to conduct a self-assessment and how to use and implement the results. An IRRS of our agency is particularly important from an international perspective because it provides a two-way street in which the U.S. and other participating foreign countries can benefit. Although I fully recognize the potential impact of such an undertaking on staff resources at a critical time in our projected new reactor reviews, I believe the schedule will allow sufficient time for budgeting and minimizing the impact on our workload.

Accordingly, I approve the staff's recommendations to coordinate with the Department of State and the IAEA to invite an IRRS mission to the U.S. in 2010. I also approve the staff's recommendation to invite a small, international peer review group to review our ongoing self-assessment activities before the IRRS is conducted.


Peter B. Lyons
6/18/07
Date