

September 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-08-0029 – STATE-OF-THE-ART REACTOR CONSEQUENCE ANALYSIS -- REPORTING OFFSITE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

The Commission has approved the staff's Recommendation 6 for assessing and reporting offsite health consequences in the state-of-the-art reactor consequence analyses (SOARCA) project.

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to submit the Peach Bottom and Surry methodology and approaches for peer review by a cadre of experts who have not participated in the development of the SOARCA and who have expertise in one or more areas of the disciplines employed in the SOARCA.

The peer review should address, in part, the credibility of the underlying assumptions and engineering judgment employed by the staff in the performance of these consequence analyses and whether it is necessary to perform level-3 PRAs to corroborate the integrity of the SOARCA Project.

The staff should continue to coordinate with NRC's federal partners such as the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC) and the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, as well as NRC's international partners, as consequence modeling technology evolves such that all have the opportunity to participate in an integrated program to develop and deploy a common, accepted, well conceived methodology. The staff should also ensure that this effort does not impact completion of the initial SOARCA results and peer review.

SOARCA provides a unique opportunity to develop a more balanced approach to risk communication by engaging stakeholders in the development of a common understanding of how to communicate radiation risk from small doses of radiation. This approach must be clearly articulated as part of a comprehensive communication strategy when the SOARCA project results are released to the public.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR