

**POLICY ISSUE
(Information)**

October 31, 2008

SECY-08-0169

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: SEMIANNUAL UPDATE OF THE RISK-INFORMED AND
PERFORMANCE-BASED PLAN

PURPOSE:

To provide the Commission with a periodic update on activities contained in the Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Plan (RPP) including a summary of the significant accomplishments achieved over the past 6 months and anticipated for the next 6 months. This paper does not propose any new commitments or associated resource implications.

BACKGROUND:

In a staff requirements memorandum dated June 1, 2006, and available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML061520304, the Commission directed the staff to improve upon the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan (RIRIP), by developing an integrated master plan for activities designed to help the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) achieve its goal of a holistic, risk-informed, and performance-based regulatory structure. The Commission also directed the staff to seek ways to more transparently communicate to the public and stakeholders the purpose and use of probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) in the agency's reactor, materials, and waste regulatory programs. SECY-07-0074, "Update on the Improvements to the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan," dated April 26, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML070890396), conveyed that plan, which the staff retitled as the "Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Plan." To help meet the Commission's expectations for both a risk-informed and a performance-based regulatory structure, Enclosure 1 of SECY-07-0074 included explicit criteria for the staff's review

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and consideration of performance-based approaches to help determine which initiatives should be both risk informed and performance based. In addition, the RPP provides for the performance and documentation of an effectiveness review following the completion of selected projects to assess their success in achieving the stated objectives. SECY-07-0191, "Implementation and Update of the Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Plan," dated October 31, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072700587), discussed the staff's progress in implementing the RPP. It included an updated set of objectives, bases, and goals for the reactor, materials, and waste regulatory arenas. In November 2007, the staff completed its commitment to make all aspects of the RPP, including these objectives, bases, and goals, available to the general public via the agency's public Internet site.

DISCUSSION:

The format of this report is similar to previous RPP reports in that most of the information is now located on NRC's public Web site. This site provides a readily accessible, comprehensive explanation and overview of the agency's risk-informed and performance-based regulatory activities and reflects the current status of the agency's risk-informed and performance-based activities.

Significant Accomplishments

The enclosure, "Recent Accomplishments and Near-Term Anticipated Accomplishments," summarizes the major risk-informed and performance-based initiatives that staff has completed over the past 6 months, as well as those activities planned for the next 6 months.

Effectiveness Reviews

The staff has not performed any effectiveness reviews since the last RPP update, SECY-08-0061, dated April 30, 2008.

Potential New Policy Issues

The licensing and safety basis for the next generation nuclear plant (NGNP) will follow 10 CFR 52 and will be risk informed and performance based. The staff anticipates that new policy issues associated with the development and implementation of the risk-informed and performance-based approach will arise. As new policy issues are identified, the staff will bring them to the Commission for consideration.

The Commissioners

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COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this paper and has no legal objection. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this paper for resource implications and has no objections.

/RA Martin Virgilio for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
Recent Accomplishments and Near-Term
Anticipated Accomplishments

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Enclosure:
Recent Accomplishments and Near-Term
Anticipated Accomplishments

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