



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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SECRETARY

June 11, 2008

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

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-08-0019 - LICENSING AND
REGULATORY RESEARCH RELATED TO ADVANCED
NUCLEAR REACTORS

The Commission has approved the staff's technical and programmatic approach as proposed in SECY-08-0019 to begin preparing the regulatory framework and supporting technical bases to license advanced reactor designs. In particular, gas-cooled reactor technology, which will be the basis for the Next Generation Nuclear Plant mandated by Congress, should remain a focus of staff licensing preparations.

The staff (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)) and the Office of New Reactors (NRO) should start recruiting processes and developing contract vehicles to implement NGNP-related activities in FY 2009 necessary to support licensing the prototype NGNP by 2021. These efforts should be appropriately prioritized so that in the event of a continuing resolution or other limited or constrained budget scenario, they do not receive priority over mission-critical work.

In the FY 2010 budget proposal, the staff should specifically address the resources needed in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to ensure that NRC remains a leader in developing the regulatory framework for advanced reactor designs and to minimize the need for dramatic spikes in resources.

The staff should continue to inform the Commission of their needs for advanced reactors.

The staff should remain nimble in its resourcing and planning for advanced reactor activities by keeping an eye on industry activities and adjusting pace accordingly.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA

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