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MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT AND NEAR-TERM ACTIONS REGARDING THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

On April 15-26, 2002, a U.S. delegation, headed by Chairman Meserve and consisting of representatives from the NRC, the Department of Energy, and the Department of State, attended the 2nd Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in Vienna, Austria.

Attached is the staff's trip report from this meeting. Several items of interest from the trip report are highlighted below.

1) The U.S. delegation concluded that the CNS is an important and effective venue for promoting nuclear safety worldwide. The submittal of national reports and the two-week meeting of contracting parties provides a peer review process for assessing the general state of a country's nuclear regulatory scheme to help achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety for contracting parties' commercial nuclear power reactors.

2) The 3rd Review Meeting of the CNS is to be held on April 11-22, 2005. In order to ensure adequate preparation for this meeting, including sufficient time for Commission review of the U.S. National Report and Commission review of answers to questions from other contracting parties, the staff will develop a CNS program plan which will: 1) identify appropriate deliverables for the 3rd CNS Review Meeting; 3) propose the level of NRC participation in the 3rd CNS Review Meeting including scope of review and roles and responsibilities for the various offices; 3) develop a schedule of CNS-related activities including appropriate inter-agency coordination with the Department of Energy and the department of State; and 4) estimate the resources necessary for these activities. This program plan will incorporate lessons learned from the 2nd Review Meeting of the CNS and will be provided to the Commission as a SECY paper by September 30, 2003.

3) For the 2nd Review Meeting of the CNS, a number of delegations included representatives from the nuclear power industry. The staff will consider what level of involvement of the U.S. nuclear power industry is appropriate for the 3rd Review Meeting of the CNS and will include its recommendation in the September 30, 2003, SECY paper mentioned above.

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