

Tasking for RES

Provide a notation vote Commission paper, with options, to address the following policy question:

(RES) (EDO Due Date: 07/24/12¹) 201200065/EDATS: SECY-2012-0161

To what extent, if any, should NRC's regulatory framework modify consideration of economic consequences of the unintended release of licensed nuclear materials to the environment?

The Commission paper should summarize the following background information sufficiently to inform the Commission's decision on this policy question:

1. How economic consequences are currently considered in current regulatory analysis guidelines (NUREG/BR-0058 and NUREG/BR-0184), the bases for this treatment, the extent to which these guidelines have been applied historically across the full range of all NRC licensees, and any changes to the bases that have occurred over time that indicate reconsideration may be warranted (e.g. changing federal views on the monetary value of a statistical human life, updated nuclear reactor accident consequence analysis insights).
2. How economic consequences are currently considered in Severe Accident Mitigation Alternatives and Severe Accident Mitigation Design Alternatives analyses.
3. Summary of all NRC's ongoing initiatives related to economic consequences with an assessment of any differences in approach.
4. How other federal regulatory agencies consider economic consequences within their areas of regulatory purview and whether any federal guidelines exist (e.g. OMB).
5. Any relevant guidance from IAEA or NEA on consideration of economic consequences in regulatory decision-making.
6. How NRC has historically considered economic consequences as part of the regulatory framework for meeting our security mission.
7. An analysis by OGC of any statutory limitations regarding economic consequences that NRC must currently adhere to, any legal considerations of prior NRC decisions or policy statements regarding economic consequences, and any case law pertaining to previous NRC decisions regarding consideration of economic consequences.
8. Any U.S. nuclear industry initiatives in this area (e.g. ASME standards).
9. A description of current NRC analytical tools to assess economic consequences and their capabilities and limitations.
10. The extent to which the activities leading to the NRC Safety Goal Policy statement considered economic consequences.

¹

This due date was later extended to August 7, 2012 by the Office of the Executive Director of Operations on June 12, 2012

Provide policy options for the Commission's consideration, including maintaining the status quo. Each option should be accompanied by a pro/con analysis and estimated resources to implement changes, as appropriate.