

December 17, 2012

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

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-12-0064 –
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND TECHNICAL
DIRECTION TO REVISE RADIATION PROTECTION
REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

The Commission has approved in part and disapproved in part the staff's recommendations. The Commission has disapproved the staff's recommendation in Option 3 to develop the regulatory basis to reduce the occupational total effective dose equivalent. The Commission has approved the staff's development of the regulatory basis for a revision to 10 CFR Part 20 and parallel alignment of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I, to align with the most recent methodology and terminology for dose assessment. Appropriate steps should be taken to assure that conforming changes are made as soon as practical to make these methods consistent throughout all NRC regulations. The staff should develop improvements in the NRC guidance for those segments of the regulated community that would benefit from more effective implementation of ALARA (as low as is reasonably achievable) strategies and programs to comply with regulatory requirements.

The Commission has disapproved the elimination of traditional units from the NRC regulations. Both units should be maintained.

The staff should continue discussions with stakeholders regarding dose limits for the lens of the eye and the embryo/fetus.

The staff should pursue its activities, and the development of any regulatory basis for action in these areas, with the extensive engagement of other Federal and State government partners (DOE, EPA, FEMA, and OSHA), including both Agreement and non-Agreement States, as well as the regulated community and the public. In particular, any future recommendations that propose a change in the dose limits should include the views of Federal, State, and other stakeholders.

The staff should provide the regulatory basis for any proposed revisions to the Commission as a voting matter.

The staff should continue discussions with stakeholders on alternative approaches to deal with individual protection at or near the current dose limit. The staff should improve reporting of occupational exposure by NRC and Agreement State licensees, some of which do not currently submit reports.

cc: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR