

March 4, 2013

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

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – COMSECY-13-0002 –
CONSOLIDATION OF JAPAN LESSONS LEARNED NEAR-
TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS 4 AND 7
REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to consolidate the rulemaking activities stemming from Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 4 - to strengthen station blackout mitigation capability at all operating and new reactors for design-basis and beyond-design-basis external events - and NTTF Recommendation 7 - to enhance spent fuel pool makeup capability and instrumentation for the spent fuel pool - into one rulemaking, the "Station Blackout Mitigation Strategies Rulemaking," with a revised schedule. The requirements imposed on power reactor licensees in the mitigating strategies Order address the most safety significant aspects of NTTF Recommendations 4 and 7 and licensees are implementing the Order at an expedited pace. Allowing additional time to codify the requirements stemming from these recommendations will avoid any potential conflicts that could arise between implementation of the Order and the rulemaking efforts and will allow for consideration of lessons learned from implementation of the Order.

The Commission also supports the revised schedule to allow the staff to consider potential failures and challenges to implementation of the mitigation strategies consistent with the direction in Staff Requirements Memorandum M120807B, from the August 7, 2012, "Briefing on the Status of Lessons Learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident," and to more closely align with the NTTF Recommendation 8 rulemaking on "Onsite Emergency Response Capabilities." The Station Blackout Mitigating Strategies Regulatory Basis will be due to the Commission on July 8, 2013; the Proposed Rule will be due to the Commission on June 30, 2014; and the Final Rule will be due to the Commission on December 27, 2016.

The staff effort to enhance the station blackout requirements stands as the most important regulatory lesson-learned from the Fukushima-Dai-ichi disaster and therefore should remain a very high priority item. Should it be necessary to adjust the schedule of other work to enable this effort to proceed with dispatch, the staff should recommend a reprioritization to the Commission for its review and approval.

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