

February 29, 2016

COMSECY-16-0006

PLEASE RESPOND BY:

March 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Burns
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Ostendorff
Commissioner Baran

FROM: Victor M. McCree */RA/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REVISION TO THE AGENCY'S LONG-TERM RESEARCH
PROGRAM AND RELATED REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Commission that the staff is reconsidering the Long-Term Research Program (LTRP) in light of Project AIM. The staff will inform the Commission of its plans for the LTRP by end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. In addition, the staff is providing an annual status update of LTRP projects to the Commission consistent with the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) on COMDEK-06-001, "FY 2008 Budget Proposal," item 16, "Forward Looking Regulatory Research," dated August 23, 2006.

In the SRM-COMDEK-06-001, the Commission directed the staff to assess emerging technical and regulatory issues that may require initiation of research. In response to the SRM-COMDEK-06-001, in SECY-07-0192, "Agency Exploratory Long-Term Research Activities for Fiscal Year 2009," dated October 31, 2007, the staff provided a long-term research plan that identified the research activities to be initiated, and stated that it would provide the Commission with an annual report on long-term research activities. Since that time, the staff has provided annual reports to the Commission that discuss the LTRP projects selected for that year and the status of the current LTRP projects. Consistent with prior years, during FY 2016, the staff conducted the LTRP and is providing for information a status update of LTRP projects currently underway in the attached enclosure.

In preparing SECY-16-0009, "Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities," the staff considered including the LTRP as an item to be shed. Although efficiencies could be achieved by shedding the LTRP, the staff determined that the NRC needs to continue to assess emerging technical and regulatory issues that may require research deemed necessary for performance of NRC's licensing and other regulatory functions, consistent with the Commission's original direction in COMDEK-06-001. Consequently, the staff concluded that the LTRP should be reconsidered to examine how long-term research should be performed more effectively and efficiently.

CONTACT: Thomas H. Boyce, RES/DE
(301) 415-7335

The Commissioners

- 2 -

Once the staff completes this reconsideration, I will transmit to the Commission by the end of FY 2016 the staff's assessment and plans for assessing emerging technical and regulatory issues in identifying necessary long-term research in an effective, efficient, and timely manner.

The Office of General Counsel has reviewed this memorandum and has no legal objection.

SECY, please track.

Enclosure:

Long-Term Research Program
FY 2012 through FY 2017 Projects
Status

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
OCFO

The Commissioners

- 2 -

Once the staff completes this reconsideration, I will transmit to the Commission by the end of FY 2016 the staff's assessment and plans for assessing emerging technical and regulatory issues in identifying necessary long-term research in an effective, efficient, and timely manner.

The Office of General Counsel has reviewed this memorandum and has no legal objection.

SECY, please track.

Enclosure:
Long-Term Research Program
FY 2012 through FY 2017 Projects
Status

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
OCFO

*Email Concurrence

ADAMS Accession No.: PKG: ML16021A346 WITS 200700129

OFFICE	RES/DE	RES/DE	NSIR*	NMSS*	NRR*
NAME	T. Boyce	B. Thomas	B. Holian (B. McDermott for)	S. Moore (J. Munday for)	W. Dean (J. Lubinski for)
DATE	2/18/16	2/22/16	2/17/16	2/18/16	2/18/16
OFFICE	OGC*	NRO*	QTE*	RES	EDO
NAME	B. Mizuno	J. Uhle	J. Zabel	M. Weber	V. McCree
DATE	2/1/16	2/17/16	2/8/16	02/22/16	02/29/16

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY