

May 10, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Loren R. Plisco, Chairman */RA/*  
Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL  
IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL

The Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP) has completed its evaluation of the first year's implementation of the reactor oversight process. The panel's final report is attached.

The panel concluded that the reactor oversight process is a notable improvement over the previous licensee performance assessment program and should be continued. The reactor oversight process has made progress toward achieving the Agency's four performance goals: 1) maintain safety, 2) increase public confidence, 3) increase regulatory effectiveness and efficiency, and 4) reduce unnecessary regulatory burden. In addition, the process provides a more objective, risk-informed, predictable, and understandable approach to the oversight of commercial nuclear reactor facilities. However, the panel recommends that the staff take specific actions to ensure the achievement of the Agency's performance goals in the long term, and further suggests other actions for staff consideration to improve the process going forward.

As part of its evaluation, the panel reviewed the staff's self-assessment program and performance measures for the reactor oversight process. The panel concluded that the self-assessment program had the necessary elements to evaluate the oversight process against the Agency's goals; however, the panel could not evaluate the effectiveness of the program given that the first year's assessment data are not yet available. Nevertheless, the panel found that, for the most part, the staff had identified the same issues the panel identified.

The members of the panel represented diverse interests and points of view. The attached report includes those issues on which the panel reached a consensus. Although the panel members agreed with the conclusions and recommendations of the report, the bases for members' agreement were frequently different.

The objectives of the IIEP charter have been completed. Unless directed otherwise, the panel will end its activities on July 31, 2001, as specified in the charter.

Attachment: As stated

S. Collins

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