

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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cc w/att:

Ms. Mary A. Ferdig
Organization Research and Development
2419 South 102nd Street
Omaha, NE 68124

Mr. Steve Floyd
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. David F. Garchow
PSEG Nuclear
P.O. Box 236, (MS-N23)
Hancock's Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Richard D. Hill
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Rod M. Krich
Exelon Corporation
Suite 500, 1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. Robert A. Laurie
Commissioner - California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. A. Edward Scherer
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92674

Mr. James L. Setser
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. Raymond G. Shadis
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution
P.O. Box 76

Edgecomb, Maine 04556

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