



SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 19, 2016

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM:           SECY-16-0083

TITLE:                     PROJECT AIM—MATERIALS PROGRAM EVALUATION AND  
RECOMMENDATION

The Commission acted on the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of September 19, 2016.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook  
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosures:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran  
OGC  
EDO  
PDR

VOTING SUMMARY – SECY-16-0083

RECORDED VOTES

	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>DISAPPROVED</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>NOT PARTICIPATING</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Chrm. Burns	X				X	08/16/16
Cmr. Svinicki	X				X	09/15/16
Cmr. Baran	X				X	08/01/16

RESPONSE SHEET

TO:                   Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM:               Chairman Burns

SUBJECT:           SECY-16-0083: PROJECT AIM – MATERIALS PROGRAM  
EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Approved   X     Disapproved      Abstain      Not Participating   

Comments:   Below   X   Attached      None   

I approve the staff's recommended Option 1 for no further regional consolidation and to continue the process enhancements and re-baselining initiatives. I also approve the staff's variation on Option 1 for each Region to identify further reductions of supervisory or non-technical staff by 2 full-time equivalents (FTE), for six FTE total. The staff's evaluation may not have fully leveraged ongoing agency initiatives to improve regional consistency, new and innovative ways of doing business, or ways to utilize better existing agency resources to enable employees and management to work remotely together more effectively. I encourage the staff to keep these things in mind – especially considering new and innovative ways of doing business and better utilizing already available agency resources to enable remote collaboration – in its continuation of process enhancements and re-baselining initiatives.

Entered in STARS

Yes   X  

No       

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

16 August 2016  
DATE

**RESPONSE SHEET**

**TO:** Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary  
**FROM:** COMMISSIONER SVINICKI  
**SUBJECT:** SECY-16-0083: PROJECT AIM – MATERIALS PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Approved XX Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: Below XX Attached \_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_

I approve the staff's recommended Option 1 variant under which 1) no further regional consolidation will occur at the present time, 2) process enhancements and re-baselining initiatives will continue (resulting in a reduction of 14 Full-time Equivalents (FTE)), and 3) Regions I, III, and IV will each identify reductions of supervisory or non-technical staff by 2 FTE (for a reduction of 6 additional FTE). Although the staff acknowledges the uncertainties in its analysis and that qualitative factors dominated a number of the specific evaluations of cases, the staff's conclusion (contained in the Integrated Business Case Evaluation, dated June 14, 2016) that the benefits of the various consolidation proposals were debatable is a reasonable one. I share the view of Chairman Burns, however, that the relevant factors contributing to this result will continue to be dynamic. Consequently, as the staff continues to evaluate proposals, as they may arise, for organizational changes or other structural changes to how we are organized to carry out our mission, the staff should remain open to re-engaging the question of consolidation or re-assignment of functional areas between Headquarters and the Regions and keep in mind the goals and objectives underlying the Commission's Policy Statement on Regionalization, 49 Fed. Reg. 7676 (Mar. 1, 1984).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

09/15 /16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: Commissioner Baran

SUBJECT: SECY-16-0083: PROJECT AIM – MATERIALS PROGRAM  
EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Approved X Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Below \_\_\_\_\_ Attached X None \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in STARS

Yes X

No \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

8/1/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**Commissioner Baran's Comments on SECY-16-0083,  
"Project Aim – Materials Program Evaluation and Recommendation"**

I appreciate the staff's thoughtful evaluation of whether further geographic consolidation of the regional materials program makes sense at this time. After considering the paper and discussing the pros and cons with the staff, I am persuaded that maintaining the materials program activities in Regions I, III, and IV is the best course of action. The staff's analysis of other options, such as consolidating the program in one regional office, two regional offices, or at headquarters, shows that geographic consolidation would require significant monetary and non-monetary implementation costs without providing much benefit. Physical consolidation would result in substantial upfront costs while adversely impacting the ability of NRC to respond to materials and reactor events. It would also complicate outreach to material licensees, states, and the public. Geographic consolidation would involve either the disruption caused by relocating staff or a move to permanent telework for some employees, which raises its own challenges.

The benefits of further consolidation are insufficient to offset these disadvantages. The materials licensing and inspection workload is sizable and stable. Moreover, the staff found that "[m]aterials licensing and inspection work is generally short-term work that does not benefit from additional staff being co-located." So moving people around is not likely to generate meaningful efficiencies.

Therefore, I approve the staff's recommended Option 1 to implement the process enhancements and re-baselining initiatives described in the paper without further geographic consolidation of the materials program. I support the staff's proposal to have each region identify two supervisory or non-technical positions to shed (for a total of six FTE) during FY 2018. This approach provides Regional Administrators with the flexibility to identify additional savings without the downsides of unnecessary physical consolidation.