

DSI-14
23

Texas Department of Health

Patti J. Patterson, M.D. Commissioner

1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756-3189 (512) 458-7111 Carol S. Daniels Deputy Commissioner for Programs

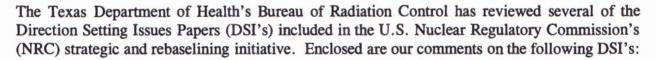
Randy P. Washington Deputy Commissioner for Health Care Financing Radiation Control (512) 834-6688 Roy L. Hogan Deputy Commissioner for Administration

November 27, 1996

Mr. John C. Hoyle Secretary of the Commissioner U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTN: Chief of Docketing and Services Branch

Dear Mr. Hoyle:



DSI 2	DSI 9	DSI 14	DSI 23
DSI 4	DSI 12	DSI 20	DSI 24
DSI 5	DSI 11	DSI 21	
DSI 7	DSI 13	DSI 22	

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these documents and to be part of the process.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Ratliff, P.E., Chief Bureau of Radiation Control

Enclosures

5. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKETING & SERVICE SECTION
OPPICT OF THE SECRETARY

- 14 mg . 1 Mg ...

Document Statistics

Postmark Date

Copies Received

Add'I Copies Reproduced

Special Distribution PD R RIOS

Schulm Creckett Cur

TX Department of Health Bureau of Radiation Control Comments on

NRC DIRECTION SETTING ISSUE PAPER 14

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

What approach should the NRC take to optimize its communication with the public?

We concur with the Commission's preliminary views regarding the options presented in DSI 14. Public concerns must be identified and addressed as early in the process as possible. Agreement States have routinely asked the NRC for the opportunity to provide early and substantive input into rules and policies being developed by the NRC that have impacts on Agreement States. Option 2, giving priority to early identification of public concerns, appears to address some of the concerns raised by Agreement States. Agreement States, representing regulatory authorities equivalent to the NRC, can use their experience and expertise to contribute toward identification and resolution of issues, and help identify otherwise unforeseen impacts.

The best approach for policy development that impacts and involves multiple interest groups is through collaboration and negotiation. When stakehoolders feel that their concerns are being addressed, greater buy-in and understanding can occur.

The NRC's recent expansion of documents available electronically on various NRC home pages has been most welcome. Continued electronic access to correspondence, rule proposals and sealed source and device evaluations has eliminated some routine calls to the NRC to obtain information. More timely posting of material electronically would eliminate additional inquiries for copies of documents.

We agree with the suggestion to consider other interactive technology such as videoconferences and electronic meetings, however, the NRC must keep in mind that not all groups will have access to this technology. The NRC must consider alternative methods for participation by interested individuals or organizations.