

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

Item #1

April 15, 1976



OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee V. Gossick  
FROM: William Anders  
SUBJECT: IMPACT VALUE ASSESSMENTS

During its initial year, the Commission has made it clear that not only was NRC to meet its fundamental safety and other statutory mandates, but that we were going to do it more effectively and efficiently.

As you know, an important element of the action program to achieve these goals was the introduction of the use of impact/value assessments in evaluating proposed regulatory actions. Such assessments were to serve to make the consequences of our possible actions more explicit, through concrete measures such as numbers of health effects, or dollars-and-cents, or pages of paperwork, etc. In particular, the Regulatory Requirements Review Committee was to make full use of these assessments to do its job better.

Recently, I was told that nine out of nine recent R<sup>3</sup>C actions were based on impact/value assessments, so I asked to see the backup documents. The assessments in these documents are a good start and I am very appreciative of this. However, I'm sure we all agree that there is room for improvement.

The objective of this process should be to relate expert ideas and judgments through concrete expressions of public benefits and public costs. Only in this way can we assure the public that we are not only protecting their safety and the environment, but we are doing it without unnecessary or counter-productive requirements.

I recognize that it's not an easy task to assure safety. It is even harder to do it efficiently. But that is NRC's task, and — as I know you fully agree — we must continue to find ways to do it better.

cc: Acting Chairman Rowden  
Commissioner Gilinsky  
Commissioner Mason  
Commissioner Kennedy  
Ben Huberman  
Peter Strauss  
Sam Chilk

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