

September 27, 1977

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

SECY-77-200B

## INFORMATION REPORT

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For: The Commissioners

From: Edson G. Case, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Thru: Executive Director for Operations *CBM (for)*

Subject: NRR PROGRAM FOR THE RESOLUTION OF GENERIC TECHNICAL ISSUES

Purpose: To respond to a Commission request for a briefing and a paper regarding priorities, action plans and completion dates for the resolution of generic issues.

Discussion: On April 13, 1977, in SECY-77-200, the NRR staff provided the Commission with a discussion of its program plan for the management of NRR technical activities and the resolution of generic issues.

Following its review of SECY-77-200, the Commission on May 25, 1977 requested "that the staff, as part of an early briefing on agency-wide MBO X, include a discussion of how the technical issues will be resolved" including "how the staff has assigned priorities and how the staff intends to select the criteria to be used to reach its safety determination." In a later memorandum dated June 22, 1977, the Secretary indicated that the Commission was expecting a paper on this subject in addition to the planned briefing.

The NRR staff briefed the Commission on the basic elements and status of implementation of its program plan for the management of generic technical activities on August 24, 1977 in response to a specific request by the Commission during

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its review of the FY 1979 budget. The briefing provided discussions of past NRR practices, the basic elements of the current program, the criteria and internal process for assigning activities to priority categories and for approving Task Action Plans, and the status of program implementation. In addition, as handouts at the briefing, the Commission was provided with summaries of the Technical Activities Steering Committee meetings which contained lists of the generic activities assigned to Categories A, B, C and D to date, schedule and manpower summaries from nineteen approved Category A Task Action Plans and two sample Task Action Plans. We believe that this briefing satisfies the Commission's earlier requests for a briefing and paper on NRR's program for the resolution of generic issues.

As indicated in MBO X, we plan to advise the Commission when the program is fully operational. Our current plans are to accomplish this by briefing the Commission on the status of the program in December, 1977. In the interim, we will keep the Commission informed of the resolution of specific issues by providing the Commission with copies of the staff's documented evaluation and conclusions. In this regard, two generic tasks are currently scheduled for completion prior to the planned December briefing.

In addition, we are keeping the ACRS informed of the status of program development and of our activities on specific issues. On September 6, 1977, the staff provided the ACRS with copies of the same material provided to the Commission on August 24, 1977 plus copies of the remainder of the nineteen approved Category A Task Action Plans for its review. We plan to continue to interact closely with the ACRS regarding our activities related to generic issues, principally through discussions with the Generic Items Subcommittee. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 1, 1977. We have also transmitted copies of our priority category assignments and the nineteen approved Category A Task Action Plans to the Office of Standards Development and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research for comment.

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