

OCT 9 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Bradford

FROM: William J. Dircks, Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: EDO REPORT: WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 3, 1980

1. Long-term Storage of Low-level Wastes at Reactor Sites

The EDO met with the staff on October 1, 1980 to discuss the ramifications and implications of long-term storage of low-level wastes at reactor sites. Driving the discussion was the publicly announced plan of TVA to provide for life-of-plant storage at its Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and the application filed for such approval. Based on this, I have asked the staff to prepare a paper addressing these issues, which would include a recommended policy statement by the Commission. Also, a letter to TVA is being prepared stating that we will review plans for use of the storage modules being constructed under a separate Part 80 license but that, until policy issues are resolved, we cannot yet act on the proposal for life-of-plant storage capability.

2. Washington Initiative 383

This initiative is the proposed act on the November ballot in the State of Washington concerning Radioactive Waste Storage and Transportation. In essence, this act states that effective July 1, 1981, no radioactive waste, except medical waste, generated or otherwise produced outside the geographic boundaries of the State of Washington may be transported to any site within the geographic boundaries of Washington for temporary, interim, or permanent storage, and also that no area within the geographic boundaries of Washington may be used by any person or entity as a temporary, interim, or permanent storage site for radioactive waste, except medical waste, generated or otherwise produced outside the geographic boundaries of Washington.

SP has requested the State regulatory agency to obtain the Attorney General's opinion on the initiative and its applicability to low-level waste due to conflicting language in Sections 2 and 3 of the initiative.

3. House Subcommittee Hearing on Ocean Dumping

The Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources (Moffett) of the House Committee on Government Operations is holding a field hearing in San Francisco on Tuesday, October 7, on past ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste. R. Cunningham, NMSS, will respond to the following two areas of concern raised by the Subcommittee:

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(a) The question of whether the NRC believes the data now in Federal hands is adequate to assure the public that there is not now and will not be in the future a health hazard from the past dumping of radioactive wastes off the Pacific shore.

(b) The NRC position regarding the wisdom of any future ocean dumping of radioactive wastes and the NRC's understanding of the current Federal thinking on this issue.

4. Transportation Routes

The NUREG dealing with the routing of spent fuel will be forwarded to the Commission shortly. ACRS has been requested to review our procedures for reviewing packages and plans to discuss this at their October 29, 1980 meeting.

5. Viewing of Film Cancelled

The 10/2 showing of the film, "Illinois Power Response to 60 Minutes Program", of October 15, 1980", has been cancelled.

6. Appropriation Bill Passed

The President has signed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for FY 1981, Public Law 96-367. NRC offices received their allotments October 3, 1980.

7. IE Reorganization

Included in the reorganization of IE is a shift of the Division of Emergency Preparedness to IE from NRR. Effective date for the shift is subject to NTEU review, which is underway.

(Signed) William J. Dircks
William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

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