

June 24, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Ahearne  
Commissioner Gilinsky  
Commissioner Kennedy  
Commissioner Hendrie  
Commissioner Bradford

FROM: William J. Dircks  
Acting Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: EDO REPORT (WEEK OF JUNE 16-20, 1980)

1. Nuclear Safety Oversight Committee

Mr. Steve Ebbins, the Committee Executive Director selected by Governor Babbitt, plans to visit OEDO next week.

2. TMI-2 Reactor Building

a.. Venting - The staff met with MET/ED on June 19 to review readiness for venting. The venting process is expected to start on Saturday, June 28, at 8:00 a.m., pending the staff's complete review and approval of procedures.

b. Entry - MET/ED has concluded that the jammed inner door to the TMI-2 reactor building was caused by a jammed safety lock which activated as designed during the accident. MET/ED plans to enter the air-lock next week, possibly on Wednesday, to free up the door by drilling a hole on the jammed door at the point where the safety lock pin is located. In view of the venting, entry to the containment itself may be put off until venting is complete.

3. AEOD Access to Information

In a memorandum (6/18/80) to the Office Directors of NRR, IE, NMSS, and AEOD, the Acting EDO has directed AEOD to develop an NRC Manual Chapter on "Operational Safety Data Review Procedures" with coordination from other offices.

4. Hiring Freeze Relief

On June 9, 1980, OMB granted NRC a partial exemption from the President's hiring freeze. The NRC ceiling has been adjusted so that we will be able to initiate some hiring immediately. Losses from our current on-board strength, however, can be replaced only on a one for two basis. The inspection program within defined limits is exempted from this limitation.

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We are now initiating hiring action on high priority vacant positions. We are currently in a position to make approximately 60 outside offers.

5. Nuclear Data Link (NDL) Funding

Sandia's NDL System Concept Study has been and will be funded till 1 October 1980 as follows:

a. Initial Support	RES	300K			
b. Additional Funds	IE	250K			
c. Latest Increment	NRR	325K	(contingent on supplemental)		
d. 6/30 through 9/30/80	(IE	300K	"	"	"
	(RES	200K	"	"	"

This funding will ensure Sandia's capability to quickly, and efficiently implement the NDL when the Commission decides which NDL configuration to proceed with in mid-July 1980.

6. Delayed Effective Dates for 10 CFR Parts 25 and 95.

10 CFR Parts 25 (Access Authorization for Licensee Personnel) and 95 (Security facility approval and safeguarding of National security information and restricted data), published on 3/5/80 as final rules, were to become effective in 75 days (5/19/80). However, request for a delayed effective date will be necessary for the GAO clearance, publication of fee schedule in the Federal Register, etc.

7. Key Rulemaking Actions

Commissioner Hendrie has expressed concerns over the possible interlinkage of the following rulemaking actions:

- a. siting policy for nuclear power plants
- b. degraded core cooling
- c. Standard Engineered Safety Features
- d. Emergency planning and preparedness
- e. Class 9 Accident considerations under NEPA

The Office of Standards Development will ensure that adequate coordination from other offices is obtained throughout the course of rulemaking.

8. Foreign Contributions to the LOFT Program

The CEA (France) and BMFT (Germany) have indicated concurrences on the terms and conditions, including financial contributions, for participation in the LOFT program.

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Acting Executive Director for Operations

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