



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 10, 1990

RELEASED TO THE PDR

6/11/90  
date

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initials

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor, Executive Director  
for Operations

FROM: *CSB*  
Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: SECY-90-104 - ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL PLANT  
EXAMINATIONS (IPE) IN ASSESSING INDUSTRY  
STATUS WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMISSION'S  
SAFETY GOAL POLICY

This is to advise you that the Commission has approved the following actions in response to the staff's recommendations in the subject paper.

1. The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved the recommendation to evaluate the IPE results as a whole and summarize any conclusions and recommendations for the Commission at the completion of the IPE review process.
2. While appreciating the limitation on the use of the anticipated IPE results for making direct comparisons with the Safety Goals and sensitive to the major resource implications of performing this analysis for every licensed commercial nuclear power plant in the country, the Commission (with Commissioners Rogers, Curtiss, and Remick agreeing) does not believe that the present SECY adequately addresses the possibilities for using the IPEs to enhance the understanding of the adequacy of our regulations through comparison with the Safety Goals. The Commission believes there are innovative ways of developing such understanding with a modest investment of resources. There may be alternative possibilities of utilizing and integrating the information from the IPEs, NUREG-1150, other existing PRAs, and information being developed by other programs (e.g., source term efforts, containment improvement programs, etc.) to gain insights into

NOTE: THIS SRM AND THE SUBJECT SECY PAPER WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

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whether the past use of our regulations has produced an ensemble of LWR nuclear power plants that appear to meet the Commission's Safety Goals objectives. Such data may also be valuable for use in other Commission activities (e.g., Incident Response Center). Specifically there may be ways of building on the above knowledge that is already available to create a representative sample of U.S. plants. Staff discussions with licensees on this issue may secure their cooperative involvement in this endeavor. In addition, the Proceedings of the American Nuclear Society Workshop on Reactor Safety Objectives and Criteria held in Idaho Falls in August 1989 offer a number of useful insights on how quantitative objectives can be used in such applications.

The staff should explore these kinds of possibilities and identify a range of options, and the resource implications of each, for the Commission's consideration. Where possible drawbacks or uncertainties exist, staff should fully explain the magnitude and degree of them and should identify possible mechanisms and estimated costs to address them to the extent possible. The staff should also use the initial results received from the IPE program in preparing a paper for submittal to the Commission.

(EDO) (SECY SUSPENSE: 12/91)

Chairman Carr and Commissioner Roberts agreed with the staff recommendation that no direct comparison of the IPE results and the safety goals be undertaken.

cc: Chairman Carr  
Commissioner Roberts  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
Commissioner Remick  
OGC  
ACRS