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POLICY ISSUE
 (Information)

November 5, 1990

SECY-90-372

For: The Commissioners

From: James R. Shea, Director
 International Programs
 Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Subject: MEETING WITH MEXICAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION OFFICIAL

Purpose: To inform the Commission about a meeting with Mr. Jose Luis Delgado, Head, Nuclear Safety, Mexican Comision Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear y Salvaguardias (CNSNS) on October 25.

Discussion: Mr. Delgado was in town to attend the Eighteenth Water Reactor Safety Information Meeting and dropped by to review and update NRC and CNSNS nuclear activities. Mr. Delgado stated that the Laguna Verde reactor had been fully licensed in July and since that time has operated at 100% power for a total of 61 days. He also stated that operation of Laguna Verde has become more important since a small fire in a warehouse at a hydroelectric plant in the southern part of Mexico had reduced Mexico's supply of electric power. A full report on activities at Laguna Verde over the last ten years has been forwarded to the President of Mexico. CNSNS plans to send us a copy. In the future, CNSNS also will provide additional documents to us, including the Annual Report, incident reports, etc.

One particular problem at the facility is the lack of qualified spare parts. (The CNSNS has submitted a request to us, which we are currently reviewing, for an NRC expert to assist them with this problem, under the IAEA's Technical Assistance program.)

Contact: William Upshaw
 GPA/IP

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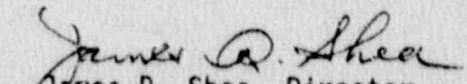
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Mr. Delgado noted that, since Laguna Verde now has been fully licensed, he anticipates an increase in nuclear safety cooperation activities between our agencies. He noted that past training provided by NRC to CNSNS employees had been very useful. He was particularly pleased with NRC training in the area of operator licensing examinations, noting that CNSNS employees' performance in this area had been enhanced significantly. He anticipates an increase in their training needs, since the CNSNS has been losing a lot of good engineers.

We suggested that the CNSNS draw up a list of specific activities for cooperation over the next year or so. We would then submit the list to appropriate NRC offices for review and possibly meet with the Mexican engineers for discussions. He agreed that this could be done on a yearly basis. We also extended an invitation for other CNSNS employees, including Mr. Miguel Medina, Head of the CNSNS, to visit utilities in the U.S. and to meet with NRC officials.

Mr. Delgado stated that Mr. Medina had asked him to pass on an invitation to Chairman Carr and other Commissioners to visit with the CNSNS and tour nuclear facilities in Mexico. The invitation will be confirmed in writing. He suggested that such visits take place during the first quarter of 1991, before the reactor is shut down for refueling in May.

IP will follow up with Mexican officials on the above matters.


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