

April 30, 1979


SECY-79-304

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

INFORMATION REPORT

For: The Commissioners

From: James R. Shea, Director
Office of International Programs

Thru: Executive Director for Operations 

Subject: TMI BRIEFINGS FOR THE NEA AND THE IAEA IN LATE JUNE 1979

Purpose: To inform the Commission of the staff's plans for providing TMI briefings, late in June, for the NEA in Paris and the IAEA in Vienna.

Discussion: The staff has recently received separate requests from the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and from the IAEA for briefings on the TMI accident. Two weeks ago, the NEA, in the context of the NEA Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI), asked through S. Levine of RES, the present Vice Chairman of CSNI, and J. Lafleur of OIP, if it would be possible to hold a meeting of the CSNI late in June (June 27-29) to discuss the TMI accident, prior to addressing previously scheduled topics on quantitative risk assessment. NEA asked if the TMI discussion could begin with a briefing by the U.S. representative(s) at the meeting. In the case of the IAEA, Director-General Eklund has asked (State cable Vienna 03768) if a U.S. expert could come to Vienna late in June, perhaps at the time of the next Board of Governors meeting (June 26-28), to explain the facts of the TMI event to the IAEA and the international community.

In general, the staff's view is that, while NRC presentations on TMI at foreign meetings in the next few weeks should be discouraged in view of the preliminary status of assessments and heavy staff commitments during the investigation, it would be appropriate in about two months to provide presentations on the main aspects of the accident to the international community as proposed by the NEA and the IAEA.

Accordingly, the staff has indicated to the NEA that we will provide a briefing and written information on the TMI incident at the CSNI meeting in June, in addition to our previously

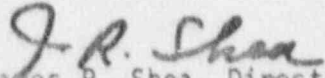
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planned participation in the risk assessment meeting. The staff has indicated to the Department of State that NRC can also provide someone to give the briefing requested by the IAEA. Our current thinking is that S. Levine, in connection with his scheduled trip to Europe as the U.S. representative to the CSNI, and/or some other knowledgeable NRC staff member, could attend both meetings and brief both groups during the last week in June. We will make clear to both groups that should some scheduling conflict develop, priority NRC interests (investigations, hearings, and other critical work) could require last-minute substitutions, scheduling changes or even perhaps cancellation of the planned briefings.

For the further information of the Commission, at least one other request has come to NRC for a TMI presentation at an upcoming international meeting. K. H. Beckurts, Chairman of the European Nuclear Conference (ENC) has requested an NRC presentation on May 9 at an ENC conference in Hamburg. Following discussions with NRC staff members which outlined the problems for NRC in complying with this request, the U.S. sponsors of the conference have agreed not to pursue this matter, and the staff is preparing a response to Beckurts declining the ENC invitation.

Coordination: RES and NRR concur in this paper. ELD has no legal objection.


James R. Shea, Director
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