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POLICY ISSUE

(Information)

January 19, 1994

SECY-94-013

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF NEA REQUEST FOR NRC PARTICIPATION IN
CHERNOBYL SARCOPHAGUS MEETING

On December 23, 1993 (by SECY 93-354) the staff requested a Commission decision as to whether the NRC staff should be represented at a Nuclear Energy Agency organized meeting in Kiev on March 14-18, 1994, concerning the environmental and radiation safety criteria that should guide remedy of the deterioration of the Chernobyl sarcophagus.

Subsequently, in accordance with Commission direction, the staff notified the NEA of its intent to send a representative to a planning meeting which was to be held in Kiev in early February 1994, noting that there had been no determination whether there should be NRC participation beyond that planning meeting.

We have now been notified by the NEA that their plans for organizing a March 1994 meeting -- and the associated planning conference with the Ukrainian authorities in February -- have been cancelled. A meeting called unilaterally by the Ukrainian authorities and insufficient interest by NEA member countries were cited by the NEA as reasons for the cancellation. The

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George Sege, RES
492-3904

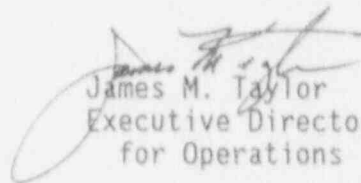
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pertinent telefaxes are enclosed. In view of the NEA's disassociation from organization of the sarcophagus conference, the NRC staff does not plan to pursue participation.



James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Telefax, K. Stadie, NEA, to E. Beckjord et al., NRC January 14, 1994.
2. Telefax, N. Steinberg, Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, to K. Stadie, NEA, January 12, 1994.
3. Telefax, E. Beckjord, NRC, to K. Stadie, NEA, January 11, 1994.

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Enclosure: 1.

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NO. PAGES :

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DATE :

14th January 1994

MESSAGE

Please see next page.

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Subject: Chernobyl Meeting, 14th-18th March 1994

Further to my telefax of 9th December 1993 [ref.: EN/S/2594] inviting you to designate experts to the above meeting, I should like to inform you of some new developments which fundamentally alter the situation:

1. During the last two to three months, we have repeatedly contacted the Ukrainian authorities, trying to define in more detail the programme and organisation of the meeting and also informing them of the various actions undertaken by the Agency.
2. We did not obtain any satisfactory answers to our repeated enquiries over this period but, instead, received yesterday the attached invitation to a meeting unilaterally organised on the Ukrainian side.
3. Immediate contacts with Mr. Steinberg led us to understand that the same invitation had been sent to a number of national organisations in OECD countries.
4. In addition to these facts, we have to consider the response of our Member countries to our invitation, which was only partial and it also appears that this issue does not enjoy a high priority everywhere.
5. Under these circumstances, we do not see what useful role the NEA could play in this affair and we have therefore decided to dissociate ourselves from the organisation of the meeting and have communicated this decision to the Ukrainian authorities.


Klaus Stadie

att.

c.c. Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy
National Delegations to the OECD

Державний комітет України
з ядерної та радіаційної безпеки

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To: Stadie K.B.
Deputy Director
OECD/NEA
Fax: 33 145 24-8500

From: Steinberg N.
Chairman

Ref. 01-13/40
Page 6

January 12, 1994

Dear Mr. Stadie K.B.,

I would like to inform you that the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety (UkrSCNRS) and the Ukrainian Ministry of Protection of the Population from Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident (Minchiemobyl) are organizing Symposium

SARCOPHAGUS SAFETY '84
Problems of Sarcophagus Safety and
Strategies for Radioactive Waste Isolation

The Symposium will be held in Kiev, Ukraine from March 13 to 18, 1984.

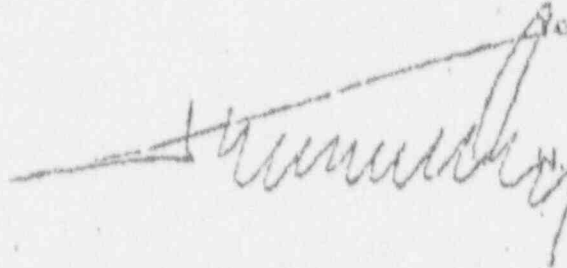
I kindly invite you to propose experts from your organization for participation in the Symposium

Upon receipt of your proposal we will issue official invitations to the participants.

Please find attached the Symposium Draft Programme.

You are welcome to contact me for any further information.

Yours sincerely,



N. STEINBERG,

Enclosure 3

Faxed from Region IV
1/11/94

FAX TO: Klaus Stadie, Deputy Director
Nuclear Energy Agency, OECD
Paris, France
Fax No.: 33-1-45-24-11-10

FROM: Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
Phone: 301-492-3700
Fax: 301-492-3597

SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL SARCOPHAGUS MEETING

At the December 1-2, 1993 CSNI meeting, you described plans for a trip to Kiev in early February, to meet with Ukrainian officials and to discuss a proposed March 14-18, 1994 meeting in Kiev concerning the environmental and radiation safety criteria that should guide remedy of the deterioration of the Chernobyl sarcophagus. You requested that a USNRC radiation protection expert be included among the three representatives to accompany you. The Commission has agreed to send an NRC representative to the February planning meeting.

The Commission has not yet determined whether there should be NRC participation in this activity beyond the February planning meeting. The purpose of sending an NRC representative to this meeting is to determine more specifically what scope of responsibility the CSNI Task Group will have and what sort of advice will be expected from the Task Group. After hearing the result of the planning meeting the Commission will decide whether or not NRC will participate in the CSNI Chernobyl environmental and radiation safety criteria task group.

The USNRC is providing assistance for operating reactor safety improvements to the Ukraine, and is concerned that first safety priority should remain on regulatory assistance to the operating reactors and not be diverted elsewhere.