

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: John C. Hoyle  
Secretary of the Commission

FROM: COMMISSIONER DICUS

SUBJECT: SECY-97-044 - POLICY AND KEY TECHNICAL ISSUES  
PERTAINING TO THE WESTINGHOUSE AP600  
STANDARDIZED PASSIVE REACTOR DESIGN

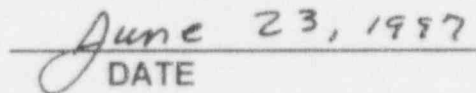
Approved  w/comments Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_ Request Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: See attached

  
SIGNATURE

Release Vote  / \_\_\_\_\_ /

  
DATE

Withhold Vote  / \_\_\_\_\_ /  
Entered on "AS" Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioner Dicus' Comments on SECY-97-044  
Policy and Key Technical Issues pertaining to the Westinhouse  
AP-600 Standardized Passive Reactor Design**

Based upon the current knowledge and understanding of the AP600 design, the limited quantification of certain associated uncertainties, as well as the recognition of unquantifiable uncertainties that may be associated with the design, I believe that the inclusion of a containment spray system or equivalent for providing accident management capability following a severe accident is appropriate for the AP600 design to achieve the desired level of defense-in-depth.

I fully support the Chairman's view that it is not the Commission's function to render a decision regarding the technically acceptable method for achieving a proper balance between preventive and mitigative defense-in-depth design features, and that the impact of uncertainty with respect to the performance of passive safety systems must be addressed in the decision-making process. Given the information available, I support the staff's position for a containment spray system, or equivalent, as proposed in SECY-97-044. However, if future information develops that allows staff to conclude that adequate bases exist to find that a containment spray system, or equivalent, is not needed in the AP-600 design for the purposes as addressed in this paper, staff should so inform the Commission.

I note that ACRS' June 17, 1997 letter views the design concept of the spray system as suggested by the staff to be "marginally adequate." Staff should work with ACRS to get a complete understanding of their concerns.