

POLICY ISSUE
NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: Commissioner Wright
SUBJECT: SECY-20-0065: Rulemaking Plan Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review

Approved X Disapproved Abstain Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below Attached X None

Entered in STARS

Yes X

No

Signature

November 13, 2020

Date

**Commissioner Wright's Comments on SECY-20-0065,
"Rulemaking Plan – Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review"**

I approve the staff's recommended Option 3 to initiate a rulemaking to add new and amend existing NRC-approved categorical exclusions in 10 C.F.R. § 51.22. This rulemaking will allow the agency to meet its National Environmental Policy Act obligations in a more effective and consistent manner by clarifying the applicability of existing categorical exclusions and eliminating preparation of environmental assessments for actions that the NRC has identified as having no significant effect on the human environment. I appreciate the staff's commitment to look for opportunities to accelerate the proposed schedule for this rulemaking as its work on the rulemaking progresses. I agree with the Chairman that the staff should do targeted internal communications to leverage the agency's experiences in this area and identify other examples of possible changes.

I also approve the staff's recommendation to forgo review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, the Committee to Review Generic Requirements, and the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes. I agree that these reviews are not necessary because this rulemaking would not involve reactor safety, would not have backfitting implications, and would not have any impact on the medical uses of isotopes.

Finally, I approve the staff's recommendation that the Commission delegate authority to issue an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) on this matter to the Executive Director for Operations, while the proposed and final rule will still be presented to the Commission for approval. I support the Chairman's request for a Commissioner Assistant's briefing in advance of the ANPR being issued.