

POLICY ISSUE
NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

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

Approved XX Disapproved _____ Abstain _____ Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below XX Attached _____ None _____

I approve initiation of a rulemaking to amend the categorial exclusions in Part 51 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, as recommended by the staff. In a publication in 2010 describing best practices, the Council on Environmental Quality recommended that agencies develop a process and timeline to review their categorial exclusions for their appropriate use and relevance on a suggested frequency of seven years. The NRC staff last undertook such an evaluation over 10 years ago. Since that time, NRC staff in the agency's primary licensing offices have identified potential modifications to the Part 51 regulations to update this component of the NRC's National Environmental Policy Act implementation. Although the staff identifies in the paper examples of these potential changes, the staff should canvas more specifically for the experiences and suggestions of NRC staff throughout the agency, using targeted, internal communications. I am confident such outreach will result in additional food for thought as the rule making team gathers input.

I approve the delegation of authority to issue the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to the Executive Director for Operations, however, the staff should conduct a briefing of the Commissioner Assistants regarding the proposed scope and content of the ANPR no less than two weeks prior to its finalization. Finally, in recognition of the narrow subject matter of the ANPR, I approve the staff's request not to conduct the various internal and advisory committee reviews listed in the paper.



SIGNATURE

11/12 /2020

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes No _____