

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER DICUS

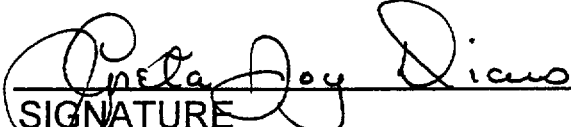
SUBJECT: SECY-99-251 - POLICY STATEMENT ON STAFF MEETINGS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: REVISION OF SECTION D

Approved Disapproved Abstain

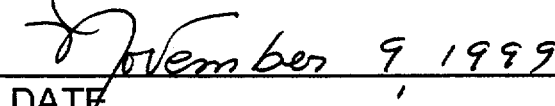
Not Participating

COMMENTS:

SEE ATTACHED EDITS AND COMMENTS



SIGNATURE



DATE

Entered on "AS" Yes No

COMMISSIONER DICUS' COMMENTS ON SECY-99-251:

I approve the revision of the policy statement, subject to the attached edits. As indicated in the attached edits, the Staff should specifically request comments on the proposed discontinuation of providing notice of staff meetings open to the public through the electronic bulletin board and telephone recording as well as through the Weekly Compilation of Press Releases and posting in the NRC's Public Document Room. The staff should also report back to the Commission with any comments it receives (either from the Federal Register notice or from the notice on the bulletin board and pre-recorded telephone message) from the public and their proposed resolution.

if there is a schedule or location change for a meeting. Therefore, the NRC does not believe that eliminating the telephone recording will adversely affect the ability of the public to find out whether meetings have been changed or canceled. The NRC plans to retain the telephone number, with a new recording that refers the public to the toll-free telephone number of the PDR and NRC Web site. For people who cannot access the NRC Web site, assistance on scheduled NRC meetings will be available through NRC staff at the PDR, by calling toll-free 1-(800)-397-4209.

The NRC does not distribute a summary compilation of meeting notices in the Weekly Compilation of Press Releases; therefore, that provision in Section D has been eliminated.

Also, because the public can gain access to the NRC Web site using a computer at the PDR, the proposed revision no longer requires that paper copies of meeting notices be posted at the

PDR. *Specific comments regarding the discontinuation of announcing staff public meetings through the electronic bulletin board and telephone recording and through the weekly compilation of press releases and postings in the NRC's PDR are requested.*

This policy statement would also be revised to state that staff meetings will be noticed as soon as the NRC staff is certain that a meeting will be held and that firm arrangements have been made, but generally no fewer than 10 calendar days before the meeting. Under the current policy, the NRC staff is instructed to send a notice to the public meeting notice coordinator at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The goal of that practice was to ensure that the subsequent administrative processing of the notice for public notification would result in the public having at least 1 week's notice of the open staff meeting. However, the current NRC implementing guidance for this policy, Management Directive 3.5, "Public Attendance at Certain Meetings Involving the NRC Staff", states that "[M]eetings open to the public should normally be announced to the public and to the Commission at least 10 calendar

days in advance of the date of the meeting....” The change to the policy will specify that the public can expect to receive notification of a staff meeting open to the public via the NRC Web site 10 calendar days in advance.

Experience has also shown that sometimes a staff meeting that is open to the public needs to be scheduled quickly, and thus does not allow time for the public to receive notice at least 10 calendar days in advance of the meeting. Therefore, in these cases where an exception to the 10 calendar day policy must be made, the proposed change states that the staff will try to give notice as promptly as possible

Exceptions to the 10-calendar day notice period will be made consistent with the agency strategic plan performance goals. The current draft of the strategic plan includes performance goals to: (1) maintain safety; (2) increase public confidence; (3) reduce unnecessary regulatory burden; and (4) make NRC activities and decisions more effective, efficient and realistic. When the final version of the strategic plan is available, we will consider if there are any changes in the performance goals that will necessitate reissuance of this policy statement.

With respect to the third and fourth ^{performance goal} criteria, it is anticipated that they will be used sparingly and only when circumstances will not reasonably permit the requisite notice. ~~Comment on these criteria is explicitly requested to identify circumstances in which use of these criteria may be justified.~~ ^{or these performance goals} ~~an exception to the 10-calendar day notice period.~~

To explain how these performance goals would be used to evaluate whether exceptions should be made to the 10 calendar day notice period, the following examples are given. To