

February 24, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-98-258 - DSI-24
IMPLEMENTATION: DECOMMISSIONING LICENSING
ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES AND MILESTONES FOR
ADDRESSING RULEMAKING GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT

This is to advise you that the Commission has not objected to the staff's plan for addressing the standardization of decommissioning licensing actions and priorities and milestones for rulemaking and guidance development, as presented in the subject paper.

The staff should regard this plan as a living document that can be amended based on stakeholder comments (e.g., Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) Decommissioning Working Group, States, public interest groups) on the relative priority of various activities.

The staff should call the Commission's attention to any resource issues that might impact these schedules as budget and program execution goes forward and as stakeholder comments are received on the proposed schedules.

The Commission expressed concern over the timeliness of addressing decommissioning licensing actions. The Commission also considered the issue of how quickly to reduce various requirements at a permanently shutdown plant to be central to various rulemakings planned or underway.

While the staff met its timeliness goals, the Commission encouraged the staff to continue its efforts to improve the timeliness of decommissioning licensing actions and rulemaking initiatives. While it is imperative that staff ensure that an acceptable level of safety is maintained at decommissioning facilities, licensing actions and rulemaking initiatives which reduce unnecessary regulatory burden should continue to receive high priority. The Commission is particularly interested in the staff's efforts to develop criteria for reducing financial protection requirements such that they are consistent with the approach being developed in the emergency preparedness and safeguards decommissioning rulemakings. The Commission requests a briefing on these criteria and their implementation after the proposed rules for emergency preparedness and financial protection have been submitted to the Commission.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

5/31/99)

CC:

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