

March 6, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: SECY-92-025 - RESOLUTION OF GENERIC SAFETY
ISSUE B-56 "DIESEL GENERATOR RELIABILITY"

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved issuance of the proposed amendment to the Station Blackout Rule and proposed revision of Regulatory Guide 1.9 (RG). The Federal Register Notice (FRN) and RG should be revised as indicated in the attachment. Additionally, the FRN should solicit the views of the public on how the following concerns might be addressed:

1. Recent NRC staff evaluations of operational events indicate that the unavailability of an emergency diesel generator (EDG) due to maintenance is about .04 as opposed to the .007 estimate in Regulatory Guide 1.155. This is a significant contribution to EDG unavailability. The trigger values were developed under the assumption that EDG unavailability from testing and maintenance is small compared to the maximum EDG failure probabilities of 0.05 or 0.025. In recognition of the maintenance rule and the higher than anticipated unavailability contributions to EDG unavailability from maintenance, what if any provisions are required to ensure an acceptable overall reliability for the emergency AC power system?
2. The selected trigger values provide an unevenness between the treatment of a .95 EDG and a .975 EDG. This unevenness can result in significantly different waiting times for detecting degradation in performance.
3. Dr. Lewis suggested several alternative statistical approaches (e.g., Bayesian method, James-Stein

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-92-025, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF THE CHAIRMAN, AND COMMISSIONERS ROGERS, CURTISS AND de PLANQUE WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM

estimator, and the "Jackknife" approach) on which public comment should be obtained.

The revised FRN should be forwarded for publication in the Federal Register.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 3/27/92)

The staff should present its conclusions regarding the alternatives proposed by Dr. Lewis and its responses to the questions posed for public comment in the FRN at the time that the proposed final rule is forwarded to the Commission for consideration.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 10/30/92)

Attachment:

As stated

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
OGC
OCAA
OIG

IF INTERESTED IN THE ATTACHMENT, PLEASE REFER TO THE SRM