

September 15, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - COMSECY-98-024 - RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED WITHIN THE
SENATE AUTHORIZATION CONTEXT AND JULY 17, 1998 STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Commission has reviewed and approved

subject to the comments and guidance discussed below.

The Commission has approved the proposed suspension of the SALP process as requested by the staff, in a structured and controlled manner. The staff should ensure that the Plant Performance Reviews (PPRs) effectively monitor and describe NRC assessment of licensees and allocate NRC inspection resources appropriately. SALP-related activities for Licensees whose SALP boards have already met should be brought to completion under the program. Because many stakeholders have grown accustomed to receiving SALP reports, the staff should ensure that any modifications necessary to enhance public knowledge of the PPR process results are made expeditiously. For example, local emergency planning and civic officials frequently look to NRC's assessments of licensee performance. The staff should ensure that these officials are provided with copies of the PPR letters which are sent to licensees summarizing PPR conclusions. (Toward this end, the "should" statement referring to the inclusion of performance trend information, contained in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter O304, must be read as a "shall.") During the SALP suspension, if any site has not held a public meeting on NRC's assessment of licensee performance within the last two years, a public meeting will be held to discuss the results of the PPR. Regional and NRR management should focus their attention on the execution of the PPR process to ensure consistency of implementation (both within a given region and between all the regions).

The staff should inform the Commission of its plans relative to the reactor performance assessment process and whether the SALP process should be resumed in the future or terminated.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspend: 1/15/99)

The staff response to the tasking memorandum and stakeholder concerns should be considered a living document to be modified and updated to reflect emerging issues. Also, some issues raised by various stakeholders -- such as stricter application of the backfit rule, uranium recovery facility issues and changes to NRC's hearing process -- should be considered for inclusion in order to make this a comprehensive tracking document. Any difficulties encountered or anticipated by the staff in completing these actions should be immediately brought to the attention of the Commission. Such difficulties would include issues that will delay implementation of the short-term actions or matters that the staff believes would preclude implementation. The staff should keep the Commission informed of progress, as appropriate, and forward to the Commission the individual development plans where Commission involvement is required on other policy issues.

The staff should provide the Commission with additional detail in topic area VI.D. including completion dates for pending licensing actions for shutdown plants at Maine Yankee, Haddam Neck, Big Rock Point, Zion, etc.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspend: 10/2/98)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG