

Commissioner Merrifield's Vote on COMSECY 00-0003

I approve SECYs recommendation to continue to schedule broad stakeholder meetings. I believe they serve several important roles for this agency. First, it is important to continue to readily receive stakeholder input and concerns on issues prior to those issues becoming too developed. Typically, the earlier we are aware of stakeholder concerns, the more efficiently the agency can focus our efforts in the appropriate direction. Secondly, these meetings reinforce NRC's commitment to maintain openness in the regulatory process. It is important that we continue to demonstrate that commitment to both our stakeholders and to Congress. Lastly, I believe that the broad stakeholder meetings can capture beneficial suggestions on issues that may not be covered by meetings with specific topics. They should continue to be held at the same frequency (every 6 months) to allow stakeholders the opportunity to voice their views on topics they believe warrant Commission attention.