

June 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - COMSECY-00-0024 - PLANS REGARDING THE "ONE VOICE" INITIATIVE FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to initiate discussions with the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) concerning improvements in communications and coordination among Federal agencies in responding to peacetime radiological emergencies under the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan. Based upon problems encountered during the Y2k rollover and the Tokai-Mura incident, the Commission believes that the discussion should address and resolve concerns that the Federal Government needs to speak with "one voice" during such emergencies. The discussion should encompass a broad range of alternatives including the following: 1) a decentralized approach in which each agency responds to inquiries using a common base of information; 2) a centralized approach in which the Lead Federal Agency is responsible for all external communications; 3) an approach in which the White House is responsible for all external communications; 4) an approach in which the FRPCC itself is responsible for all external communications; or 5) a graded approach where responsibility for communication would change as the scope or intensity of the emergency situation changes or as public concerns escalate. The staff should also recommend that the FRPCC seek routine involvement by a White House agency in its activities and in individual agencies' emergency exercises when the scenario, if real, likely would draw significant media attention.

The staff should identify the White House point of contact for emergencies in which NRC would be the LFA and should seek to involve a White House official at least annually in an NRC reactor emergency preparedness exercise.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 12/29/00)

The staff should revise the letter to FRPCC to reflect the attached edits.

Attachment: As stated

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
PDR

ATTACHMENT

Changes to the letter to the FRPCC

- a. Page 1, paragraph 1, line 4: change the semicolon to a comma and replace "which deals with" with "concerning"
- b. Page 1, paragraph 1, line 5: replace "coordination" with "exchange of information and protocols for communication with the public"
- c. Page 1, paragraph 3, line 4: delete "effectively"
- d. Page 1, paragraph 3, line 5: replace "with a broad spectrum of stakeholders." with "effectively."
- e. Page 1, paragraph 3: replace last sentence with "Several Federal agencies may be expected to comment to the public about the event and to address the potential for such an event to occur in the United States."
- f. Page 1, paragraph 4, line 4: replace "tasked with answering" with "expected to answer" and replace "potential" with "likelihood" and replace "occurring" with "to occur"
- g. Page 1, paragraph 4, line 5: add "to the nature of" after "in the United States and"
- h. Page 2, lines 3, 11, & 16: remove bold from "One Voice"

- i. Page 2, paragraph 1: delete the second sentence that begins "The NRC also recognizes ..."
- j. Page 2, paragraph 1, line 7: delete "coordination and"
- k. Page 2, paragraph 1, line 8: replace "applicable stakeholders" with "affected agencies"
- l. Page 2, paragraph 2, line 4: replace "he" with "Dr. Miller"