

# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 205555,0001

C. 20555-0001

7/17

June 29, 2006

Approve with comments.

**MEMORANDUM TO:** 

Chairman Diaz

Commissioner McGaffigan

Commissioner Merrifield

Commissioner Jaczko Commissioner Lyons Dale E. KI

07/26 /06

FROM:

Luis A. Reyes

Executive Director to Operations

SUBJECT:

NRC INTERIM PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

The purpose of this memorandum is to forward you for your review and approval the United States (U.S.) Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Interim Pandemic Response Plan. This Plan represents a high-level agency-wide plan which, if approved in whole, or in part, by the Commission, will be followed by the development of action plans and resource estimates of the remaining preparedness activities identified in the Plan. Once the action plans and resource estimates are completed, the staff plans to submit this information to the Commission for information.

On November 1, 2005, President George W. Bush announced the *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* and directed all Federal departments and agencies to begin internal planning to ensure readiness in the event of an influenza pandemic. At the direction of the Commission, and further guidance provided by Commissioner Merrifield, I established the Pandemic Task Group, led by Jacqueline E. Silber, Deputy Executive Director for Information Services and Administration and Chief Information Officer, to begin agency planning.

In support of the *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza*, the Homeland Security Council, in May 2006, released the *Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza*, which provides planning assumptions and guidance to departments and agencies for addressing an operational approach to employee safety, continuity of essential functions, and communication with stakeholders in their planning for pandemic influenza. The Department of Homeland Security provided detailed guidelines for pandemic planning in a memorandum dated March 1, 2006, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Office of National Security Coordination. This guideline addressed elements of FEMA's Federal

CONTACT:

Samuel S. Lee

301-415-1722

#### Chairman Klein's comments on COMSECY-06-0033

I approve the Interim Pandemic Response Plan proposed by the staff. I noted that, in the paper, NSIR is responsible for the maintenance of this plan and the associated annexes and will lead in annually reviewing and updating the plan and annexes. Given the need for an integrated plan that involves ADM, OIS, HR, and other offices, the action plan and resource requirements should be coordinated with the EDO and CFO.



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### Commissioner Merrifield's Comments on COMSECY-06-0033, "NRC Interim Pandemic Response Plan"

I approve the interim plan developed by the staff, and I want to commend the staff for their diligent work on this document. During preparation of this plan, I received periodic briefings from the staff and provided my insights from my participation in numerous continuity of operations (COOP) exercises. I believe this high level plan provides the framework that will allow the staff to develop the action plans and resource estimates to work out the details on how the Regions and individual Offices can best implement a plan to ensure that the NRC will be able to continue to fulfill our mission in the event of a pandemic that may result in a large number of the staff being unable to work for an extended period of time. I look forward to receiving the action plans and resource estimates for review.

7/14/06



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#### Commissioner Jaczko' Comments on COMSECY-06-0033 NRC Interim Pandemic Response Plan

I approve the staff plan to implement the pandemic response plan subject to more detailed resource estimates. In addition, I encourage the staff to ensure that this plan is well coordinated with other continuity of operation plans. In general, I believe the agency should strive to have a continuity of operations plan that is able to deal with the wide variety of challenges to operations that may occur and should strive to avoid plans that are tailored specifically to a particular type of incident.

I appreciate Commissioner Merrifield's efforts in working with the staff to develop this plan.

Gregory B. Jaczko

Date



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