



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

11/26

November 7, 2007

COMMISSIONER

COMGBJ-07-0005

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Lyons

Approve with comments. See attached.

FROM: Gregory B. Jaczko

Dale E. Klein

11/20/07

SUBJECT: INCREASING THE TRANSPARENCY OF NRC'S PUBLIC MEETINGS

This agency has a long record of working to conduct business as transparently as possible. The agency does a good job noticing public meetings and reaching out to those who may have an interest in attending in advance of the meeting. The NRC's website has the agency's meeting schedule, agendas and, sometimes, links or ADAMS accession numbers to background documents helpful in understanding the issue or action being discussed. But the reality of today's world is that not everyone interested in a topic is always able to attend the meetings or listen in if conferencing is available. Fortunately, technology now makes it possible for us to do even more to enhance the agency's efforts in this regard.

We believe it would be useful, if technologically feasible and affordable, to make sure that those with an interest in an NRC public meeting have the opportunity to view meetings over the internet through real-time viewing options. Given the advancements in webstreaming technology, we believe the staff should use technology to its advantage in increasing the transparency of NRC's public meetings.

Therefore, we believe the staff should consider webstreaming every public meeting where the staff anticipates significant public interest unless feasibility constraints prevent them from doing so in a particular instance. The staff should provide a cost estimate to the Commission of the implementation of this within 45 days.

SECY, please track.

cc: OGC
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Chairman Klein's comments on COMGBJ-07-0005

I approve Commissioner Jaczko's proposal to have the staff provide a cost estimate on webstreaming NRC public meetings. I believe webstreaming can be a means to increase transparency of NRC's public meetings, provided it can be demonstrated to be cost effective. I would note however, that webstreaming relies on the availability of a relatively high speed Internet connection to support the transmission of the outgoing data stream and many public meeting locations may have limited, or no, Internet connectivity, which will present both technology and policy limitations. The opportunity to webstream should not be an overriding factor in the selection of meeting locations, which would undermine our outreach efforts to have public meetings in close proximity to the affected community. Consequently, the staff's cost estimate should include potential costs for the transport and setup of the equipment for webstreaming public meetings. In addition, staff should evaluate how much equipment would be needed based on NRC's recent experience of holding concurrent meetings in different locations, and our experience in webstreaming Commission meetings.

Finally, I believe that the relatively short amount of time (45 days) for the staff to scope out the costs of implementing webstreaming for NRC public meetings could impact on other high priority activities that the staff is currently focusing on to improve the agency's information technology infrastructure. For example, staff is currently working on implementation of Microsoft Outlook/Exchange, restoration of the ADAMS public library, IT systems accreditation and certification, and expansion of bandwidth to the Regions, Resident sites, and the Technical Training Center. In order not to disrupt these critical infrastructure upgrades, I propose the staff provide the Commission an estimate of the cost of webstreaming by March 28, 2008.


Dale E. Klein

11/2007



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

REQUEST REPLY BY

11/26

November 7, 2007

COMMISSIONER

COMGBJ-07-0005

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Lyons

Approve.

FROM: Gregory B. Jaczko *Greg B. Jaczko*
SUBJECT: INCREASING THE TRANSPARENCY OF NRC'S PUBLIC MEETINGS

Peter B. Lyons

Date

11/9/07

This agency has a long record of working to conduct business as transparently as possible. The agency does a good job noticing public meetings and reaching out to those who may have an interest in attending in advance of the meeting. The NRC's website has the agency's meeting schedule, agendas and, sometimes, links or ADAMS accession numbers to background documents helpful in understanding the issue or action being discussed. But the reality of today's world is that not everyone interested in a topic is always able to attend the meetings or listen in if conferencing is available. Fortunately, technology now makes it possible for us to do even more to enhance the agency's efforts in this regard.

We believe it would be useful, if technologically feasible and affordable, to make sure that those with an interest in an NRC public meeting have the opportunity to view meetings over the internet through real-time viewing options. Given the advancements in webstreaming technology, we believe the staff should use technology to its advantage in increasing the transparency of NRC's public meetings.

Therefore, we believe the staff should consider webstreaming every public meeting where the staff anticipates significant public interest unless feasibility constraints prevent them from doing so in a particular instance. The staff should provide a cost estimate to the Commission of the implementation of this within 45 days.

SECY, please track.

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UNITED STATES
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

REQUEST REPLY BY: 11/26
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COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Lyons

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