

August 22, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – COMWDM-11-0001/COMWCO-11-0001 – ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING THE EVENTS IN JAPAN

Given the significant public interest in the event in Japan, it is critically important for the Commission to carefully consider its approaches for engaging internal and external stakeholders and provide clear direction to the staff in this area. Comprehensive, transparent, and clear communication with our stakeholders will lend additional credibility and transparency to the agency's actions.

The staff should:

- (1) Include as part of the communications plan for the next steps after issuance of the Task Force Report, a mechanism to provide the public with the NRC's most up-to-date understanding of the chronology of events at Fukushima Dai-ichi and the agency's current understanding of the plant's status.
- (2) Obtain, stakeholder input on the recommendations provided in the Task Force report. The staff should ensure that input (*e.g.*, via public meetings or workshops) from representative groups of stakeholders including industry, non-government organizations, representatives of State and local governments, other Federal agencies, and public citizens, is solicited. In addition, the staff should brief the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the Task Force recommendations and agency plans going forward.
- (3) Consult with individual public citizens who are not knowledgeable in nuclear/radiological matters to obtain feedback on the public readability and understandability of the final near term Task Force report. This consultation may assist the agency with communication to the general public. Staff is encouraged to benefit from this input while maintaining its high standards for technical rigor.
- (4) No later than 6 months after public release of the Near Term Task Force report, the staff should use the insights gained from the stakeholder and public citizen input (*i.e.*, items 1-3, above) to provide the Commission a notation vote paper considering:
 - a. Enhancements the agency should make to assure ongoing engagement with the public and stakeholders concerning matters related to Fukushima Dai-ichi.

- b. The potential of convening a one-time group of experts to advise the agency on how it might improve NRC's external communications on significant regulatory issues. The paper should include a proposed charter, recommendation for the number of members and composition of the group, and the resources necessary for its establishment. As part of its charter, this expert group should be invited to opine regarding potential actions the NRC might take in the long term to improve stakeholder involvement, such as the establishment of a standing advisory committee for that purpose.
- c. Recommendations for engaging other organizations including Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions, and others to establish partnerships to advance public communication and education on topics associated with radiological safety.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

1/20/12)

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR