

June 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis

FROM: Commissioner Magwood */RA/*
Commissioner Ostendorff */RA/*

SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING THE
EVENTS IN JAPAN

The purpose of this COM is to facilitate Commission direction on how the agency's task force on the events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex should engage stakeholders during the long term portion of the task force's review, and how insights from the review should shape the agency's strategies for engaging stakeholders. The staff has done a commendable job in evaluating and responding to the extensive requests for information on the Fukushima event.

These numerous inquiries have highlighted the importance of the agency methods for communication with external stakeholders on significant issues. From a broader perspective, the Fukushima experience has clearly demonstrated the need and value for effective communications from NRC with regard to matters associated with radiation safety. Given the significant public interest in the event in Japan, it is critically important for the Commission to carefully consider its approaches for engaging stakeholders and provide clear direction to the staff in this area. Fulsome communication with our stakeholders will lend additional credibility and transparency to the agency's actions.

The Commission should direct that the staff:

- (1) Include as part of the communications plan for the long term review, a mechanism to provide the public with the NRC's most up-to-date understanding of the chronology of events at Fukushima and the agency's current understanding of the plant's status.
- (2) Obtain, before finalization of the task force's approach for the long term review, stakeholder input on the scope of the review and the process for communicating the task force results. The task force should seek input (*e.g.*, via a public meeting or workshop) from a representative group of stakeholders including industry, non-government organizations, representatives of State and local governments, other Federal agencies, and public citizens. In addition, the staff should brief the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the approach for the long term review.

- (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 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) Within 6 months of initiation of the long term review, the staff should use the insights gained from the stakeholder and public citizen input 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.
 - 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.

SECY, please track.

cc: EDO
OGC
SECY