

April 16, 1999

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-99-086

TITLE: RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING PROCESS AND ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING LICENSEE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of April 16, 1999.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Commission, and the SRM of April 16, 1999.

Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments: 1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets
3. Final SRM

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
EDO
PDR
DCS

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-99-086

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. JACKSON	X				X	4/7/99
COMR. DICUS	X				X	4/16/99
COMR. DIAZ	X				X	3/25/99
COMR. McGAFFIGAN	X				X	3/26/99
COMR. MERRIFIELD	X				X	3/30/99

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, all Commissioners approved the staff's recommendation and provided some additional comments. Subsequently, the comments of the Commission were incorporated into the guidance to staff as reflected in the SRM issued on April 16, 1999.

Chairman Jackson

I approve the staff proposal to eliminate the NRC watch list and NRC recognition of superior performers from the senior management meeting (SMM) process. These actions, combined with the efficiencies gained through the proposed reductions in correspondence, offer an opportunity to increase regulatory effectiveness and efficiency without reducing our regulatory scrutiny of nuclear facility performance.

As the staff further develops recommendations regarding the SMM and the criteria and categories by which plants will be discussed and reported to the Commission, emphasis should be maintained on developing clear definitions (e.g. what constitutes a "regional-focus" facility, to the extent that the staff intends to use this term). Further, while the changes proposed by the staff anticipate the continued development of the new reactor oversight process (which would establish thresholds for when facilities require agency-level attention), the staff should remain mindful that the SMM will apply to fuel cycle and other significant materials facilities as well as reactor plants. Criteria and categories established in support of the SMM process must be robust enough to allow for the proper treatment of this class of licensees.

Commissioner Dicus

I approve the staff's recommendation regarding the SMM process, along with the elimination of the Watch List and recognition of superior performers.

Commissioner Diaz

I commend the staff for developing a coherent plan for the transition from the Senior Management Meeting (SMM) to the new reactor oversight process in accordance with the direction established by the Commission, especially the elimination of the watch list and superior performer recognition. Therefore, I approve the staff's recommendations in SECY-99-086, and I look forward to the continued implementation of improvements in this area.

Commissioner McGaffigan

I approve the staff's proposals to eliminate the watch list, to eliminate the recognition of superior performance, and to issue docketed correspondence as a result of the SMM only when the agency's intended actions are different from those conveyed in previous correspondence, during the transition period from the suspended SALP program until the new oversight process is broadly implemented. However, I do not agree that only agency-focus plants and previous watch list plants should be discussed in the Commission paper written following the April 1999 SMM and at the subsequent public Commission meeting. Instead, I believe that the paper and subsequent Commission briefing should also discuss the regional-focus plants. Under the new oversight process, the annual Commission meeting will discuss the performance of all plants and those plants which are agency-focus or regional-focus will be readily apparent. It would, therefore, be closer to the new process to discuss both agency-focus and regional-focus plants this year. Further, unless something changes between now and April, there is only one plant, Millstone 2, which is likely to be identified as agency-focus, if I am properly interpreting the criteria. All other previous watch list plants would meet the criteria for regional-focus or perhaps even routine oversight. The Commission and the public need to know in 1999 which plants are regional-focus plants as they will in 2000 and beyond.

Commissioner Merrifield

I commend the staff for their hard work and insights associated with the reactor oversight process improvements. I join Commissioner Diaz in also commending the staff for developing a coherent plan for transitioning to the revised reactor oversight process. While I approve all of the recommendations made by the staff in SECY-99-086, I am especially pleased to approve the staff's recommendations to eliminate the watch list and superior performer recognition.

As I stated in the March 26, 1999 Commission meeting associated with [SECY-99-007A](#) , it is imperative that we maintain good communication with stakeholders regarding the improvements being made to the reactor oversight process. I believe it is equally important that we promptly notify our stakeholders of the changes, and basis for the changes, outlined in SECY-99-086.