

May 31, 2001

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-01-0071

TITLE: EXPANDED NRC PARTICIPATION IN THE USE OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR EVENT SCALE

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of May 31, 2001.

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

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Meserve
 Commissioner Dicus
 Commissioner Diaz
 Commissioner McGaffigan
 Commissioner Merrifield
 OGC
 EDO
 PDR

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-01-0071

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. MESERVE	X				X	4/30/01
COMR. DICUS	X					5/17/01
COMR. DIAZ	X				X	5/8/01
COMR. McGAFFIGAN	X				X	4/27/01
COMR. MERRIFIELD	X				X	5/11/01

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, all Commissioners approved the staff's recommendation and some provided additional comments. Subsequently, the comments of the Commission were incorporated into the guidance to staff as reflected in the SRM issued on May 31, 2001.

Commissioner Comments on SECY-01-0071

Chairman Meserve

I strongly recommend that NRC expand its participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) as described in Alternative 4. Expanded participation in INES supports the NRC Strategic Plan, serves as a tool furthering the “One Voice” initiative, and encourages other nations to share information on nuclear events. In light of the minimal NRC staffing impacts and the fact that no new obligations would be imposed on Agreement States (SECY-01-0071, at 6), INES seems to offer significant benefits with minimal incremental costs.

Commissioner Diaz

I approve Alternative 4, Full Participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). This screening process will be folded into the existing event evaluations that already occur in the program offices. This does not involve a change to the existing NRC emergency preparedness regulations or to licensee emergency planning requirements. Using the INES will put our domestic reactor and materials events in an internationally understood frame of reference which will improve communications with the international community. As noted in the paper, this would be consistent with our Strategic Plan and “One Voice” initiative.

Commissioner McGaffigan

I approve the staff recommendation to implement Alternative 4 - full participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale - thereby increasing NRC’s participation, and that of the Agreement States, in reporting certain events to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Also, page 7 of the staff paper states that selection of Alternative 4 “would affect certain options that will be offered to the Commission in the National Materials Program paper that would terminate NRC tracking of Agreement State events.” I am not inclined to support such options particularly in light of my decision on this paper.

Commissioner Merrifield

I strongly support staff’s recommendation of full participation in the use of the International Nuclear Event Scale as defined in Alternative 4. I believe that our participation will enhance communication with our international counterparts and increase public confidence. The importance of communicating to the public about the safety significance of nuclear events cannot be underestimated and it is imperative that we support clear and consistent communication.

Staff has noted that this vote could impact activities in the National Materials Program and I will comment on the options staff provides accordingly. However, I agree with Commissioner McGaffigan in that I would not support options that would involve terminating the tracking of Agreement State events.