

July 2, 2001

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-01-0074

TITLE: APPROVAL TO PUBLISH GENERIC LICENSE RENEWAL
GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of July 2, 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 McGaffigan
 Commissioner Merrifield
 OGC
 EDO

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-01-0074

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. MESERVE	X				X	6/15/01
COMR. DICUS	X					6/21/01
COMR. McGAFFIGAN	X				X	6/15/01
COMR. MERRIFIELD	X				X	6/15/01

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 July 2, 2001.

Commissioner Comments on SECY-01-0074

Chairman Meserve

I commend the staff for its continuing and impressive record of accomplishment in connection with the license renewal effort.

Commissioner McGaffigan

I approve publication of Regulatory Guide 1.188 and NUREG-1800 and note the staff actions to inform our stakeholders, including Congress, of the documents' availability.

As I stated at the June 14th Commission briefing on SECY-01-0074, I commend the staff for its outstanding effort in developing these guidance documents. At that briefing, I was particularly pleased to hear the positive feedback from Mr. Tuckman, on behalf of the industry, on the quality of these documents -- including NUREG-1739 "Analysis of Public Comments on the Improved License Renewal Guidance Documents." In my view, the resource costs associated with providing a thorough explanation on the staff disposition of the 1000-plus comments from our stakeholders was a wise investment in meeting our performance goal to increase public confidence.

The report language accompanying NRC's FY 2000 Appropriations Bill characterized the renewal of licenses for currently operating reactors as "...one of the most important issues facing the Commission."¹ In that report, the Congress challenged NRC to apply lessons learned from the initial reviews to "...ensure that the two-year timetable could be sustained and improved upon for future license renewal reviews." Clearly, we have met that challenge, and I fully expect that we should continue to see further improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of future renewal reviews as a direct consequence of the license renewal guidance documents that are the subject of this SECY. I fully support the staff's efforts to treat these as "living documents" as we gain more experience in conducting additional license renewal reviews.

Finally, at the June 14th Commission meeting I explored the need for rulemaking to ensure that the results of the scoping process are included in a licensee's renewal application, as intimated in the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards letter of April 13, 2001. The staff and the industry representative assured me that future renewal applicants understand the importance of "voluntarily" providing scoping information to improve efficiency and public credibility of the review process. I accept that position. I hope the understanding between the staff and industry is sustained.

Commissioner Merrifield

I commend the staff for their outstanding performance in the license renewal area. I also commend the agency's senior management team for the fine leadership and management oversight that they have shown during the reviews of the initial renewal applications.

I approve publishing the generic license renewal guidance documents as recommended by the

¹FY 2000 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Report 106-253

staff in SECY-01-0074. I appreciate the staff's extensive efforts associated with the development of these documents. These documents are extremely important because they should serve to enhance the predictability, consistency, and efficiency of the NRC's license renewal review process. I am pleased that the staff recognizes the importance of periodically updating these documents as it develops more experience in subsequent reviews.

I encourage the staff to continue to work responsibly on resolving the 5 industry issues outlined in the SECY. Also, I encourage the staff to keep the Commission informed on the progress of the GALL demonstration project and of any significant issues that arise during that project.

Finally, I appreciate the staff's exhaustive efforts to solicit public participation in the license renewal process and I support the staff's plan to ensure that the public has adequate opportunities to participate in future license renewal process improvements.