



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 15, 2008

SECRETARY

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-08-0098

TITLE: REQUEST TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FELLOWS IN
THE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved in part and disapproved in part the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of September 15, 2008.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
EDO
PDR

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-08-0098

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. KLEIN	X	X			X	7/25/08
COMR. JACZKO	X	X			X	9/2/08
COMR. LYONS	X	X			X	8/28/08
COMR. SVINICKI	X	X			X	8/27/08

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, all Commissioners approved in part and disapproved in part 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 September 15, 2008.

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: CHAIRMAN KLEIN
SUBJECT: SECY-08-0098 – REQUEST TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF FELLOWS IN THE GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Approved XX/In-Part Disapproved XX/In-Part Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below ___ Attached XX None ___



SIGNATURE
7/25/08

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes No _____

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS ON SECY-08-0098

I support the staff's proposal to make greater use of the Graduate Fellowship Program (GFP) to close identified skill gaps, many of which continue to persist despite intensive recruitment efforts. My approval, in part, is based on the staff's assurances that the agency can effectively sustain administrative support for a GFP of up to 16 fellows without reengaging external entities, such as the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, which the agency previously retained under an interagency agreement to operate a 4-fellow program for the NRC. Consequently, I approve the proposal to expand the scope of the GFP to 16 fellows at any one time, beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year. This increase to 16 fellows is a ceiling on the program and as such, is the maximum number that the staff may support at any one time.

The actual number of fellows supported in any academic year, however, must be subject to available funding. In that regard, the agency's FY 2009 budget contains sufficient funding for administration of a maximum of four fellows and funding within RES to support 3 recently selected participants. Consequently, any additional fellows to be supported for the 2008-2009 academic year will have to be funded in FY 2009 within existing office resources, including any additional administrative costs (HR) travel costs (CFO) and FTE support/direct costs (individual sponsoring offices).

For FY 2010, the staff has requested that the Commission approve additional funding for an expanded GFP as part of its approval of SECY-08-0098. I do not approve this approach since the Commission needs to address the FY 2010 budget as a whole, not piecemeal. The proposed FY 2010 budget, which will soon be provided for Commission review and approval, maintains funding for the GFP at the FY 2009 level and therefore can support only four fellows. Consequently, the staff will also have to fund any additional fellows in FY2010 from existing office resources, absent a Commission decision to the contrary during its review of the FY 2010 budget.

Since it is my understanding that funding 16 fellows at any one time would require approximately \$1 million (spread between HR, CFO, and the individual sponsoring offices) and we are likely to encounter increasing difficulty in obtaining Congressional support for continued growth in our annual budget, the staff needs to identify and prioritize its most critical skill needs and use the GFP to close the highest priority skill gaps from existing resources until FY 2011, when it should specifically identify and request appropriate resources to support an appropriately expanded GFP up to a maximum of 16 fellows. The staff should keep the Commission informed of its plans to implement an expanded GFP during the agency's annual Workforce Planning meeting.

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

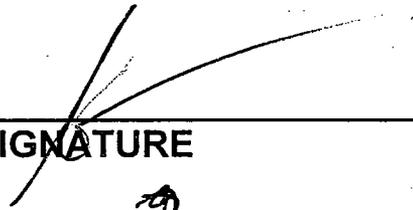
TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER JACZKO
SUBJECT: SECY-08-0098 – REQUEST TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF FELLOWS IN THE GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Approved X/In-Part Disapproved X/In-Part Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below X Attached ___ None ___

I concur with the Chairman's comments in his vote of 7/25/08.



SIGNATURE

09/2/08

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No _____

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER LYONS

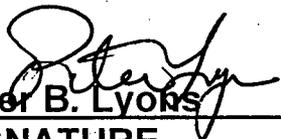
SUBJECT: SECY-08-0098 – REQUEST TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF FELLOWS IN THE GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Approved ^{In Part} X Disapproved ^{In Part} X Abstain

Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below X Attached None

I fully support the staff's proposal to make greater use of the Graduate Fellowship Program (GFP) by expanding the program to include 16 fellows at any one time. I support the Chairman's comments on available funding for the program and intend to address this issue in my vote on the FY2010 budget request.


Peter B. Lyons
SIGNATURE

8/28/08
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER SVINICKI
SUBJECT: SECY-08-0098 – REQUEST TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF FELLOWS IN THE GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Approved XX/In-Part Disapproved XX/In-Part Abstain _____
Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below XX Attached _____ None _____

I endorse the comments and positions put forward in Chairman Klein's vote. Any proposed expansion of this program will be decided in the context of Commission action on the FY2010 budget request (COMDEK-08-0005).



SIGNATURE

08/27/08

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes No _____