

January 21, 1999

FOR: The Commissioners
FROM: A.J. Galante /s/
Chief Information Officer
SUBJECT: CHANGES FOR SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REPORT

PURPOSE:

This paper provides the Commission a copy of the annual Freedom of Information (FOIA) Report for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Fiscal Year 1998, and informs the Commission of changes to the guidelines for submitting the report.

BACKGROUND:

With the enactment of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, Public Law 104-231, 101 Stat. 3048, Congress made major revisions to subsection (e) of the FOIA that pertain to the submission of annual FOIA reports by Federal agencies. Congress revised the list of basic required elements for annual FOIA reports, altered the timetable and procedure for submitting the reports, and provided that the Department of Justice (DOJ), in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will issue guidelines for preparing and submitting the annual FOIA report.

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Under the new guidance, Federal agencies no longer are required to submit their annual FOIA reports directly to Congress. Agencies will now send their fiscal year annual report to DOJ, Office of Information and Privacy, by February 1 of each year, with the World Wide Web location identified in the report. The DOJ will establish a single point of access to all annual FOIA reports and will notify Congress when this is done.

In compliance with the statute, NRC placed its 1997 Annual FOIA Report on the Internet at: <<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/RULES/foia1997.html>>. The 1998 Annual FOIA Report is attached and has been submitted to the Office of Information and Privacy, DOJ, and will be placed on the NRC Website by January 29. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for NRC's FY 98 Annual FOIA Report will be: <<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/RULES/foia1998.html>>.

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Attachment: Annual FOIA Report - FY 98