

June 30, 1998

MEMORANDUM L. Joseph Callan
TO: Executive Director for Operations
FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/
SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS: SECY-98-075 - DSI-24 IMPLEMENTATION: RISK-INFORMED,
PERFORMANCE-BASED CONCEPTS APPLIED TO DECOMMISSIONING

The Commission did not object to the staff's proposal to maintain the decommissioning inspection program in the regions and to maintain an on-going dialogue with the Nuclear Energy Institute and other stakeholders regarding innovative approaches to decommissioning. However, with respect to rulemaking and guidance development, the Commission believes that the schedule proposed in SECY-98-075 reflects insufficient priority attention to the agency's decommissioning program in general and to processing licensing actions, including exemptions, for those licensees in active decommissioning in particular. Specifically, the Commission requested that the staff:

1. consider development of a standardized template to expedite the processing of routine licensing actions under current rules, similar to the template eventually developed for the improved standard technical specifications program, if such a template would speed the process.
2. take regulatory action to address specific licensing actions and exemption requests without waiting for formal rulemakings to resolve issues generically.
3. provide the Commission an overall plan and an integrated set of milestones for addressing the initiatives under development or contemplated in the decommissioning area. The staff should also include within the plan a prioritization scheme for the various initiatives and specific timeliness goals for licensing actions for the plants in active decommissioning, the level of effort needed to implement the plan, and identify any policy guidance needed from the Commission to expedite licensing reviews and rulemakings. The prioritization scheme should take into account not only risk information but also cost-beneficial considerations for both the NRC and its licensees.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 10/16/98)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (by E-Mail)
PDR
DCS

SECY NOTE: This SRM and SECY-98-075 will be made publicly available within 5 working days of the date of the final SRM.