

January 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers Executive
Director for Operations

William M. Beecher
Director, Office of Public Affairs

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-99-227 - N+1 RESIDENT INSPECTOR STAFFING POLICY

The Commission has approved a revision to the resident inspector staffing policy to require two resident inspectors at single and dual unit sites and three resident inspectors at triple unit sites pending completion of the study in June 2001.

The Commission approved the staff's plans to provide recommendations on inspection staffing in June 2001 as part of the report on full implementation of the revised reactor oversight program. The report should include recommendations on how those resources should best be allocated among headquarters, the regions, and the sites.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 6/2001)

The Commission takes this step during the interim period with the understanding that:

- the change in policy will not directly result in a diminution in the overall inspection resources or the agency's ability to complete planned inspection program requirements,
- the staff will not direct reassignment of any resident inspector solely to achieve N resident staffing at dual or triple unit sites,
- the staff should provide heightened management oversight on staffing for sites where the number of resident inspectors assigned is N.
- the Regional Administrators, in consultation with NRR, will retain the flexibility to adjust the number of resident inspectors assigned to a site upward if the circumstances warrant, and
- the number of resident inspectors at any given site will not be reduced to less than two individuals.

The Commission believes that the policy revision will not in and of itself result in a reduction of inspection resources, and represents a greater agency focus on safety by enhancing NRC's ability to allocate resources on the basis of licensee performance. The staff should develop and implement a communication plan regarding this policy matter prior to implementing the revision so that the basis for the Commission's decision is clear to our internal and external stakeholders.

(EDO/OPA)

(SECY Suspense: 1/21/00)

With regard to the quality of resident inspectors, the staff should continue to make them an important focus of our recruitment and retention efforts.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
Regional Administrators