

April 21, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary **/RA/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-06-0041 - PROPOSED
STRATEGY TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW-
REACTOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Commission has approved an initial approach for implementing the Construction Inspection Program (CIP) for new reactors. This approach will create a dedicated organization in the Region II Office in Atlanta, Georgia, that will have total responsibility for all construction inspection activities across the country, including both the day-to-day onsite inspections and the specialized inspection resources needed to support NRC oversight of the construction of any new nuclear power plants. The Regional Administrator will ensure appropriate management oversight of the initial CIP efforts while maintaining focus on the NRC mission in the safety oversight of Region II operating facilities. This approach is intended to ensure consistency in implementing the new inspection program and quickly incorporate ongoing lessons learned into this entire program.

This initial organization may well need to change in the next few years based on how the new construction environment actually evolves.

This initial approach should be reviewed at least annually to ensure that the safety oversight of operating facilities is not adversely affected and to consider alternatives, as appropriate, to address developments in the actual construction of new facilities.

As construction nears completion, operations resident staff should be assigned to the site from the Region in which the plant would be operating.

The EDO should take action as necessary, including that which may require Commission approval, if organizational needs change in response to expanding construction activities, to ensure the Regional Administrator in Region II is able to maintain the appropriate focus on operating reactors. One example might be creating a second Deputy Regional Administrator devoted to the construction inspection program.

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
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