

June 16, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-08-0056 – ESTIMATED
COSTS FOR BROADCASTING PUBLIC MEETINGS OVER THE
INTERNET (WEB STREAMING)

The Commission has approved Option 2 in SECY-08-0056 which will provide the necessary equipment and staff resources to web stream meetings in two additional conference rooms in the White Flint Complex and the auditorium in White Flint North. The staff should move forward with the web streaming initiative using available FY2008 funding.

The staff should use the lessons learned from expanding the headquarters web streaming capability, in conjunction with the results of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel's one-year pilot program to web stream meetings from remote locations, in making its recommendations on how best to implement a web streaming program for the regions.

The staff should report back to the Commission with a more detailed look at the possible expansion of web streaming agency meetings structured in phases. The staff should provide a broader evaluation of how this expansion will be harmonized with existing communications policies and directives, as well as providing data on NRC web streaming experiences to date. This information should be provided to the Commission in the spring of 2009 so that the Commission's consideration of the FY 2011 budget, and adjustments to the FY 2010 budget, will be informed by the staff's analysis. The staff's evaluation should include the following:

- a. A review of the number of times an NRC meeting has changed from Category 1 to Categories 2 or 3, since that would likely provide some correlation of the extent to which there is "significant public interest" in web streamed meetings. Because web streaming provides only a one-way communication, staff should also evaluate how increased reliance on web streaming could impact the agency's objective for Category 2 and 3 meetings, which is to solicit a dialogue with the public. (See, e.g., Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings; Policy Statement, 67 Fed. Reg. 36920, May 28, 2002.)
- b. The number of stakeholder requests, under current Commission policy, for teleconferencing and videoconferencing meetings in the past 2-3 years, which would at least provide a reasonable estimate of public meetings with "significant public interest."

- c. Any available data regarding current public interest in the meetings already webcast (*i.e.*, web “hits”) as a useful barometer to measure recent “significant public interest” and an assessment of how this data on web hits would support modifying the amount or categories of web streaming currently supported.
- d. A more detailed evaluation of the infrastructure costs associated with installation of video teleconferencing (VTC) capabilities in additional NRC meeting spaces. This evaluation should include the costs of any lighting or wiring upgrades necessary for the VTC installation.
- e. An examination of current Commission policy statements regarding enhancing public participation and should map any expansion of web streaming to the current meeting categories laid out in NRC policy and management directives.
- f. An evaluation of the definition of a meeting with “significant public interest” and whether it is appropriately expansive and clear.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR