

May 6, 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-10-0024 – REPORT TO
CONGRESS ON ABNORMAL OCCURRENCES FISCAL YEAR
2009

The Commission has approved issuance of the FY 2009 Abnormal Occurrence Report to Congress, subject to incorporation of the changes and comments noted below.

1. On page 1 of the report, the staff should resolve the following comment. Cases 1 and 2 are very similar. Case 1 states that the administration of iodine-131 was given when the patient was approximately 5 days post-conception, and that a fetal thyroid dose of 0.97 was calculated. Case 2 states that since the gestation was only 2 to 3 weeks at the time of the administration of iodine-131, the implications of the exposure should be minimal because the thyroid has not formed at that stage of development. The staff should clarify what appears to be an inconsistency between fetal age and possible dose to the thyroid.
2. On page 1, paragraph 1 under event AS09-01, add the following to the end of the paragraph: “Although both of these events occurred at medical facilities, they both involved unintended exposures to individuals who were not the patient. Therefore these events belong under the criteria for 1.A in Appendix A, which is the “For All Licensees” category as opposed to item III.C, the “Medical Events” category
3. On page 6, revise first sentence of paragraph 4 under event AS09-04 as follows: “An error in **entry of information into** the treatment planning system caused the wrong nerve to receive treatment.”
4. Staff should verify that the projected completion date of March 2010 is correct on page 18 of the report. The proposed congressional letter should be revised to reference the update of a previously reported Abnormal Occurrence and include the one other event of interest on leaks in underground pipes at some nuclear power plants.

SECY Note: This SRM to be made publicly available 5 working days after dispatch of the report to Congress.

5. On page 19, (Appendix C), revise paragraph 3 to read: “The NRC is aware of significant media coverage of leaks in underground pipes at some nuclear power plants as well as information indicating that there may be perceptions that these underground pipe leaks have had high health and safety significance. ~~For these reasons the NRC is reporting this issue under events of other interest.~~ Tritium is a mildly radioactive isotope of hydrogen that occurs both naturally and during the operation of nuclear power plants. Nuclear plants normally release water containing tritium and other radioactive substances under controlled, monitored conditions that the NRC mandates to protect public health and safety. Although none of these releases meet the abnormal occurrence criteria, they are being included in this report because of the significant public, Congressional, and media interest.”

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
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CFO
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OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
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