

April 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: J. Samuel Walker, Acting Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON FIRE PROTECTION ISSUES, 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 1999, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service on fire protection issues. The staff should begin rulemaking at the earliest reasonable date in parallel with establishment of the NFPA standard. The staff should continue its interactions with stakeholders in developing timely, effective, and realistic risk-informed solutions to fire protection problems.

The staff indicated that they would provide a final report on the Fire Protection Functional Inspections Pilot Program by April, 1999. This report should also include the staff's recommendation on the appropriate types and frequencies of reactor fire protection inspections, including whether fire protection functional inspections are needed, and whether fire protection inspections should be part of the new reactor oversight process. In addition, when assessing the effect of exemptions to Appendix R, the staff needs to consider the cumulative effect of exemptions at a particular plant.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 4/30/99)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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