

June 15, 2000

MEMORANDUM William D. Travers

TO: Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE NUCLEAR CRITICALITY ACCIDENT AT TOKAI-MURA AND THE IMPLICATIONS ON THE NRC'S PROGRAM (SECY-00-0085), 10:00 A.M., MONDAY, MAY 8, 2000, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff and representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy on lessons learned from the nuclear criticality accident at Tokai-mura, Japan.

The staff should ensure that the NRC is more fully prepared to provide prompt preliminary information that identifies, addresses, generally bounds, and communicates in plain English the level of risk to the public in the event of a future accident, whether in the United States or in a foreign country. As the staff did in response to the accident in Tokai-mura, the staff should continue to be prepared to consider what additional safety measures should be incorporated into our regulatory framework for facilities in the U.S. to minimize the probability and consequences of a significant accident.

The staff should report to the Commission on the level of State and local government participation in emergency exercises for U.S. nuclear fuel plants and strongly encourage such participation in the future.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 7/28/00)

The staff should continue to work with other Federal agencies, the States, local jurisdictions, and licensees to increase awareness of the resources available under the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (e.g., DOE's REACTS) to address the rare possibility that medical treatment of highly irradiated persons could be required. These efforts might include identification of appropriate medical facilities, personnel and transportation plans.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 9/29/00)

The Commission will provide direction to the staff on the "One Voice" initiative, as discussed by the staff during the briefing, in the staff requirements memorandum on COMSECY-00-0024.

The staff should, as part of its current efforts to revise the nuclear fuel facility oversight program, encourage U.S. nuclear fuel plant licensees to use risk information, as appropriate, to prioritize corrective action items.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
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