

August 2, 2001

MEMORANDUM William D. Travers
TO: Executive Director for Operations
FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/
SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON RESULTS OF REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION, 9:30 A.M., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001, 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 Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP) on the results of ROP initial implementation. The Commission appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders in providing feedback on the revised ROP. In particular, the Commission acknowledges the effort put forth by individual IIEP members that resulted in a comprehensive assessment of the ROP initial implementation and provided specific recommendations for improving the process.

The staff should address the following items in a timely manner and provide status on these items with the annual ROP self-assessment results:

1. The significance determination process (SDP) evaluations should be performed and completed in a timely manner consistent with established performance goals (i.e., 100 percent within 90 days). Process improvements should be identified to ensure further improvements in this area. This is important to the agency's goal of establishing a regulatory system that is technically sound, predictable, and reaches decisions with reasonable expedience.
2. The ROP web page should be revised to provide user-friendly access to historical performance indicator data by external stakeholders.
3. Plain, understandable language should be used whenever possible in ROP documents and public meetings.
4. The staff should be careful about the definition of "statistically significant adverse trends," particularly when the staff is fitting exponential decay curves to the existing data. A simple flattening out of an indicator's data at a very low level should not be interpreted as a statistically significant adverse trend. Risk-informed thresholds for the various performance indicators (PIs) should also be developed as soon as practicable to aid in determining the regulatory significance of any properly defined statistically significant adverse trends.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 3/28/02)

The staff should provide a summary report describing NRC's historical efforts related to development and use of performance indicators (PI). The report should describe the staff's efforts to work with industry and other stakeholders in developing the set of PIs used in the ROP. In particular, the report should describe staff efforts to probe the industry to identify areas industry is trending that might be of value to the NRC's ROP. The report should also highlight international use of PIs such as Ontario Power's public exposure PI and Finland's advanced PIs.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 1/31/02)

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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