

September 4, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NRC INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, 9:30 A.M.,
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2001, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT
NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the staff on the agency's international activities. The Commission is encouraged by the progress and improvements in this arena. The staff should continue to focus on the following issues:

1. The written staff guidance for preparation and participation in international meetings by the NRC staff, currently under development by the International Council (IC), should be structured to allow for early, efficient Commission notification of, and involvement in, policy issues that may arise before, during, and after a meeting. The IC should also consider establishing a mechanism to provide guidance to the staff during the course of participating in important international meetings, as needed.
2. In the annual paper due to the Commission addressing NRC's specific goals, objectives and short- and long-term strategies for participation in various international fora, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the staff should outline methods to involve the Commission early enough in the process so that it can provide policy guidance and influence the outcome of standards and guidance that are developed. The Commission is particularly interested in policy issues relating to the development of standards and guidance for waste, orphan sources, clearance of radioactive material, transportation, and standards that the NRC by law would have to adopt.

(OIP/EDO) (SECY Suspense: 1/31/02)

When the staff provides written comments to international agencies on safety standards a copy should be provided to the Commission for information.

3. The staff should use a proactive, systematic approach in interacting with international and other U.S. government agencies to inform them about the NRC mission and activities.
4. The staff should continue to look at all program areas where we can benefit from cooperation with the international community, including opportunities in the U.S.
5. The staff should debrief foreign assignees to the NRC and should explore differences in the regulatory approaches between the assignees' countries and the U.S. Policy implications from these insights should be forwarded to the Commission.
6. The staff should consider seeking international assignees to work at the NRC on materials issues.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR