

December 20, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: John T. Larkins,
Executive Director, ACRS/ACNW
William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - MEETING WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS (ACRS), 1:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2001, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by members of the ACRS on the following topics:

1. Reactor Oversight Process
2. Regulatory Challenges for Future Plant Designs
3. ACRS Core Power Uprate Activities
4. ACRS License Renewal Activities

The NRC staff should review ACRS recommendations concerning the white/yellow and yellow/red thresholds for performance indicators (PIs), particularly as regards implementation of risk-based PIs.

The ACRS should continue to review staff efforts on risk-based PIs and improvements to the significance determination process.

The staff, with ACRS input, should provide recommendations for resolving, in a transparent manner, apparent conflicts and discrepancies between aspects of the revised reactor oversight process that are risk-informed (e.g., significance determination process) and those that are performance based (e.g., performance indicators).

The ACRS should continue its efforts to ascertain regulatory challenges for future reactor designs. The Committee should also ensure that it is prepared to review NRC staff efforts on advanced reactors in the near term, including issues related to Westinghouse's AP1000, General Atomics' gas turbine modular helium reactor, and Exelon's pebble bed modular reactor.

The NRC staff should review the ACRS recommendation to develop a standard review plan to improve the effectiveness of power uprate reviews. The staff should inform the Commission of the results of the staff review.

(EDO) (SECY Suspense: 2/15/02)

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