

February 12, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations
Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS SAFETY, 9:30 A.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on status of the nuclear materials safety program. The staff should:

1. revise the timeliness goal for completing 100% of fuel cycle facility licensing amendments to two years;
2. consult with the Commission on policy issues regarding NRC interactions with Agreement States, IAEA, and other countries on international shipments of radioactive sources including event response, notifications of events to other countries, and import/export tracking and controls. Such controls should be risk informed and could include implementation of a registration program or issuance of specific licenses for the export of certain categories of sources;
3. develop the policy issues and possible alternatives for the control of sources and the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Material for Commission consideration. The staff should include the mechanisms for achieving consistency with European Union and International Atomic Energy Agency activities that are already in place, and other factors such as the implications for Agreement States and the Nuclear Waste Safety Convention;
4. develop a communications plan to be used if a source-related event occurs. The plan should be ready for implementation and should bound the consequences of events to aid in minimizing social disruption and to encourage appropriate public response based on the safety significance of the events. The staff should provide a timeline for implementation of the communication plans; and
5. provide the Commission with a SECY paper with proposed options that provides a comprehensive analysis and schedule for integrating all the ongoing evaluations of the materials arena program, including results of the Nuclear Materials Phase I and II studies, SECY-01-0112, and the Chairman's tasking memorandum of August 9, 2002.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 4/26/02)

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