

October 31, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON LICENSE RENEWAL PROGRAM, POWER UPRATE ACTIVITIES, AND HIGH PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 1:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the following topics:

1. Reactor Licence Renewal;
2. Reactor Power Uprates;
3. Rulemaking;
4. Reactor Materials Issues;
5. Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Sump Performance;
6. Browns Ferry Unit 1 Restart; and
7. New Reactor Licensing

The staff should continue to monitor fuel performance issues and inform the Commission of any significant trends in this area.

The staff should perform rulemaking activities using a balanced, issue-specific approach. Some issues may warrant extensive development of the technical bases before proceeding with formal rulemaking activities, as proposed by the staff. However, other issues may not.

A key purpose of a technical evaluation is to understand what it means in a regulatory and safety sense. As a result, when conducting technical evaluations for safety significant issues (like long-term cooling or the material degradation issue), the staff should periodically step back and take a broader look at the safety and regulatory implications. Safety issues should be approached, managed and resolved in a deliberate and comprehensive manner so that new issues and existing concerns are identified early. The process should encourage activities be identified and resolved in a pro-active manner.

The staff should continue to look for opportunities to enhance headquarters and regional corporate knowledge and experience by taking full advantage of unique learning opportunities. For example, the Browns Ferry Unit 1 restart construction inspection activities may offer learning opportunities for inspectors who do not have experience in construction inspection activities.

The staff should consider the need to appropriately prioritize reactor license renewal reviews and leverage resources to continue to meet the timeliness and safety goals.

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