

March 7, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NMSS PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS - WASTE SAFETY, 2:00 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on NMSS programs, performance, and plans related to waste safety. The Commission prefers that the presentation on annual program briefings focus more on the details of staff accomplishments and future challenges that may require Commission decisionmaking and less on the planning processes that NMSS would use to prepare for those challenges. Specifically, in future annual program reviews, all program offices should focus on the accomplishments/successes of the program, where there have been gaps/failures to meet plans, how the next year will be similar or different from the previous year, and what future Commission decisions will arise from ongoing activities.

The staff should, in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the applicable rules for Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and as part of its ongoing efforts to use the resources available to it at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (the Center), identify relatively large-scope and long-term activities within the Center's areas of technical expertise. The staff should also evaluate options for expanding the range of regulatory programs in which the Center could provide assistance. For example, the staff should consider expanding the minimum charter program staff, placing additional work at the Center that can be categorized as related to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and revising the Charter of the Center to encompass additional areas of support.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

5/31/06)

The staff should provide the Commission with its near-term actions and milestones for final resolution of efforts to allow the use of burn-up credit in spent fuel analysis and licensing.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

5/15/06)

Given the number of waste determination reviews that the staff may be performing within the next 12 months, the staff should look for opportunities to accelerate the completion of the standard review plan (SRP). The staff should also ensure that the SRP communicates to our stakeholders, in a clear and understandable manner, how we are doing these reviews.

The staff should continue to discuss with the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste the topic of igneous activity as it relates to a potential geologic repository for spent fuel and high-level waste.

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