

March 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON NMSS PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS, 10:00 A.M.,
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE,
MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) accomplishments, challenges, and strategies for continued and future success. The Commission commended the staff for its accomplishments.

With regard to future challenges in the fuel facilities arena, the staff should ensure that resources are applied to address near term staff and regulatory development needs for advanced enrichment technologies, uranium conversion and deconversion, and mixed oxide fuel fabrication as matters of higher priority over the development of a regulatory framework for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

The staff should inform Agreement States that NRC will regulate future major fuel cycle facilities licensed under 10 CFR Part 40, e. g., uranium conversion and deconversion facilities. NRC should work with the Agreement States to make any necessary changes in Part 40 and current agreements. Staff should also propose options for rulemaking that would require these facilities to complete an Integrated Safety Analysis similar to the current Part 70 Subpart H requirements for Special Nuclear Material.

The staff should expand their outreach with university nuclear engineering programs by communicating specific knowledge and skills needed, i.e. criticality, to Nuclear Engineering Department Heads Organization.

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