

May 12, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – BRIEFING ON REACTOR MATERIALS ISSUES, 9:30 A.M., MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by representatives of the nuclear power industry and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the industry's materials initiatives and licensees' experience with materials degradation. The Commission was also briefed by NRC staff on its reactor oversight and research programs that address materials issues including materials degradation, aging, license renewal, and extended plant operation beyond 60 years.

The Commission continues to support a proactive approach by both industry and NRC staff to identify and understand plant aging issues, predict future degradation, provide for early detection, and address them before they become safety significant.

The staff should provide the Commission the results of the destructive examination and analysis of the St. Lucie pressurizer nozzle dissimilar metal butt welds when they become available.

The staff should continue working with stakeholders, as appropriate, to seek opportunities to learn from the destructive examination of components to verify and validate non-destructive techniques and to gain a better understanding of materials degradation and aging issues.

The staff should coordinate with NEI to inform the Commission on the results of NEI's assessment of the effectiveness of the industry's Materials Initiative Program when they become available.

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