

December 5, 2008

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

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - PERIODIC BRIEFING ON NEW REACTOR ISSUES, 9:30 A.M. AND 1:30 P.M.,
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by an industry panel and the staff on the status of new reactor issues. The industry panel provided an update on the readiness and capability of industry to support new reactor construction, including workforce development and training, quality control, and the supply chain. The staff panel provided a status of recent new reactor activities and the new reactor construction inspection program, including readiness, assessment, enforcement and Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC).

The staff should employ the current established protocol related to the prioritization of new reactor licensing activities should resource challenges require it. If industry endorsed alternatives are presented, the staff should consult the Commission prior to implementation.

The staff should continue to work with stakeholders to ensure the status of closed ITAAC is maintained, including the threshold for notification requirements. Further guidance to the staff will be provided in the SRM for SECY-08-0117.

The staff should provide the Commission an opportunity to review the guidance before reaching a decision to endorse the "Industry Guideline for ITAAC Closure Process under 10 CFR Part 52," NEI 08-01.

The staff should reconsider the construction assessment process, as presented in IMC 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results," and propose policy options to the Commission. The staff proposal should address the construction program oversight already inherent in the ITAAC monitoring and closure processes, and the inclusion in the construction oversight process of objective elements such as construction program Performance Indicators (PIs) and Significance Determination Processes (SDPs) analogous to those used in the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).

The staff should continue to work with industry and other stakeholders on the development and embodiment of safety culture within the construction inspection program. The staff should keep the Commission informed of the plans for implementation and of future updates to the thresholds in the construction response table.

The staff should continue to pursue software enhancements to the Construction Inspection Program Information Management System (CIPIMS) that would allow inspectors to enter draft inspection reports directly into CIPIMS.

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