

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M090205

February 17, 2009

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

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON URANIUM
ENRICHMENT, 9:30 A.M. AND 1:30 P.M., THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2009, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM,
ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN
TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by representatives of the uranium enrichment industry, including licensees and applicants, a representative from the State of New Mexico, and the NRC staff. The licensees and applicants provided their perspectives of the successes and challenges of enrichment, including the licensing process, hearings, construction, protection of classified information and technology, and depleted uranium disposition. An industry representative discussed an industry task force looking at the regulatory process for enrichment facilities. The representative from the State of New Mexico provided the State's perspective of the licensing and hearing processes and siting issues of uranium enrichment facilities. NRC staff provided successes and the path forward for NRC licensing and oversight of new and proposed enrichment facilities and lessons learned to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of regulation.

The Commission recognized the NRC staff for the quality and effectiveness of staff's open and transparent communication on the licensing process.

The staff should look for ways to improve the guidance on financial assurance for decommissioning (specifically for estimating decommissioning costs for fuel facilities) and safety reviews (one specific example is quality assurance guidance) for licensing uranium enrichment facilities.

The staff should continue to look for ways to improve participation of the States and local communities in the licensing process and the effectiveness of public stakeholder meetings for uranium enrichment facilities. For example, giving members of the public a forum to provide their views and arranging for an open house for members of the public to have a dialogue with NRC staff.

The staff should continue its review of the fuel cycle oversight process and evaluation of whether quantitative measures of performance would be applicable.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko

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