

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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**AFFIRMATION SESSION**

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**PUBLIC MEETING**

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**Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
**Commission Hearing Room**  
**11555 Rockville Pike**  
**Rockville, Maryland**

**Wednesday, December 8, 1999**

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice, at 9:25 a.m., Richard A. Meserve, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

RICHARD A. MESERVE, Chairman of the Commission

NILS J. DIAZ, Member of the Commission

EDWARD MCGAFFIGAN, JR., Member of the Commission

JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD, Member of the Commission

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STAFF AND PRESENTERS SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

ANNETTE L. VIETTI-COOK, Secretary

KAREN D. CYR, General Counsel

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[9:25 a.m.]

**P R O C E E D I N G S**

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. This is an affirmation session and we have one item to come before us this morning. Before I ask the Secretary to lead us through the item for affirmation, do any of my colleagues have any opening comments that they would like to make?

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: Madam Secretary, you may proceed.

MS. VIETTI-COOK: The Commission is being asked to act on a final rule amending 10 CFR Parts 21, 50, and 54 to provide for the use of alternative source terms at operating reactors. These amendments set forth requirements and acceptance criteria for the use of a revised source term as an alternative to the TID-14844 source term by operating reactors. Operating reactors would have the option of continuing to use the TID-14844 source term or an approved alternative, such as that given in NUREG-1465. This action would allow interested licensees to pursue cost-beneficial licensing actions to reduce unnecessary

regulatory burden without compromising the safety of the facility. Many of the alternative source term applications may provide concurrent improvements in overall safety and in reduced occupational exposure. The amendment also makes conforming changes to eliminate the need for exemptions from certain requirements in 10 CFR 50.34(f) and from the dose criterion in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion (GDC-19), by applicants for construction permits, operating licenses, combined licenses, or design certifications who apply after January 10, 1997. The Commission has voted to approve the final rule

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subject to the comments and changes provided in the attachment. Would you please affirm your vote?

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DIAZ: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MCGAFFIGAN: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD: Aye.

MS. VIETTI-COOK: Commissioner Dicus would have also affirmed her vote had she been here since she had approved it by Notation Vote earlier.

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: Very good. Are there any other matters for us this morning?

MS. VIETTI-COOK: No.

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: If not, we stand adjourned.

COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD: I just had one comment because I was noticing the microphones have a little bit of a problem this morning. We have a very good staff here at the agency who deal with the audiovisual issues and they fall under the jurisdiction of our Deputy EDO, Mrs. Norry. I feel that we may have a problem that they may be hampered by perhaps some older equipment. I'm not certain. We are going to be pursuing the notion of videostreaming. We also have an outstanding request to televise our proceedings on cable TV and I might suggest to the Chairman that we do an appropriate investigation of our equipment here in this room to make sure it is operating properly so that when we are broadcasting into the ether we do it at the highest quality level.

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MS. CYR: We do have new monitors.

MS. VIETTI-COOK: Yes. They're replacing the equipment in here, but yes, that's something that... I didn't realize that I was having problems with this mike until I heard your mike.

COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD: Yes. The Chairman's mike was having similar problems.

CHAIRMAN MESERVE: Very good. I understand the request and it's something I will look into. If there are no other matters, we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:30 a.m., the affirmation session was adjourned.]

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached description of a meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: Affirmation Session  
(PUBLIC MEETING)

PLACE OF MEETING: Rockville, Maryland

DATE OF MEETING: December 8, 1999

was held as herein appears, is a true and accurate record of the meeting, and that this is the original transcript thereof taken stenographically by me, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company.

Transcriber: DARLENE K. WRIGHT

Reporter: (TAPE RECORDING)