

June 1, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF RISK-INFORMED AND PERFORMANCE-BASED REACTOR REGULATION, 9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006, 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 by the NRC staff on issues concerning risk-informed regulation. The Commission supports the continued use of high quality level 1 and 2 probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) as a basis for making safety and regulatory improvements.

The staff should improve the risk-informed regulation implementation plan (RIRIP) so that it is an integrated master plan for activities designed to help the agency achieve the Commission's goal of a holistic, risk-informed and performance-based regulatory structure. The plan should continue to give priority to risk-informed activities underway and incorporate lessons learned from earlier activities as appropriate.

The staff should look for opportunities to enhance interactions with stakeholders as the staff moves forward with risk-informing NRC regulations and other regulatory processes. The staff should give priority to the development of such regulations and processes most likely to be utilized. The staff should ensure that processes are in place to resolve issues in a timely manner, including raising issues to senior management and/or the Commission, as appropriate.

The staff should seek ways to communicate the purpose and use of PRAs in NRC's reactor regulatory program more transparently to the public and stakeholders.

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