

January 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

SUBJECT: MEETINGS ON NRC RESPONSE TO
STAKEHOLDERS' CONCERNS

On July 17, 1998, the Commission held the first of several meetings on NRC's response to stakeholders' concerns in the reactor arena. After the second meeting, November 13, 1998, the Commission asked the staff to evaluate, after two more stakeholders meetings, the stakeholders meeting process and recommend any changes in venue, participants, or general meeting structure based on lessons learned. The second of the two follow-on meetings in the reactor arena was completed on December 16, 1999. The Commission also held an additional stakeholders meeting on nuclear materials and waste November 9, 1999.

Since the first meeting on stakeholders' concerns, the Commission has also included individual stakeholders in meeting on a variety of specific topics. In most of these cases there were specific issues that were before the Commission for decision. The Commission and stakeholders had the benefit of staff analysis and consequently these meetings produced a more in-depth exchange of views. This involvement of stakeholders has been beneficial in terms of openness of the agency and informing Commission decision-making. SECY recommends continuing this approach, and has drafted a revision of the Commission's Internal Procedures on Commission Meetings to formally address stakeholder involvement (COMSECY-99-037).

On the other hand, the principal benefit of the broad stakeholder meetings has been the opportunity for the agency to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to obtain their perspective on whether the overall direction of the NRC is appropriate and whether we are meeting our goals. A continuation of these types of interactions with stakeholders may provide beneficial insights and suggestions that can be useful in making further improvements in the regulatory process, and informing the strategic planning process and interactions with Congress. SECY recommends continuing to schedule "stakeholder" meetings periodically with the nature of the discussion somewhat broad; however, the frequency could be changed from every 5-6 months to perhaps annually, or as needed.

SECY please track.

cc: OGC, EDO, CIO, CFO, OCA, OPA