

February 14, 2000

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

FROM: William D. Travers */RA by Frank J. Miraglia Acting For/*  
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR  
APPLYING RISK-INFORMED DECISIONMAKING IN LICENSE  
AMENDMENT REVIEWS (WITS NO. 199900064)

In a staff requirements memorandum (SRM) dated January 5, 2000, the Commission approved the staff's approach for applying risk-informed decisionmaking in license amendment reviews, as described in SECY-99-246, "Proposed Guidelines for Applying Risk-Informed Decision-making in License Amendment Reviews," and requested the staff to provide its schedule for completing development and/or modification of related guidance documents. This memorandum contains this schedule.

The staff identified the following actions in SECY-99-246:

- Inform the industry of the interim position for applying risk-informed decisionmaking through a separate communication, such as a regulatory issue summary (RIS).
- Modify the risk-informed guidance in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.174 and Standard Review Plan (SRP) Chapter 19 to reflect the staff's role in reviewing the risk implications of license amendment requests that are not risk informed.
- Modify NRR Office Letter 803, "License Amendment Review Procedures," to provide additional guidance to aid in identifying license amendment requests that warrant a review for risk implications.

The schedule for each of these items is provided below, followed by a brief description of each item.

Contact: Robert Palla, NRR/DSSA/SPSB  
415-1095

	<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
1.	Issue RIS describing interim guidance	3/2000
2.	Develop modifications to RG 1.174 and SRP Chapter 19 regarding risk-informed decisionmaking	
	• Transmit draft modifications to Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Committee To Review Generic Requirements (CRGR), and issue for public comment	4/2000
	• Meet with stakeholders, ACRS, and CRGR	5/2000
	• Resolve comments and transmit proposed final modifications to ACRS and CRGR	7/2000
	• Meet with ACRS and CRGR on proposed final modifications	8/2000
3.	Develop modifications to Office Letter 803	9/2000
4.	Transmit final modifications to the Commission	9/2000
5.	Issue RIS describing final guidance	~1 month after Commission consent

A draft RIS has been prepared and is being reviewed. The RIS describes the interim guidelines provided in SECY-99-246, along with modifications to reflect Commission guidance provided in the SRM. We anticipate issuing the RIS by March 2000.

Final guidance regarding "special circumstances" and review of risk implications of non-risk-informed license amendment requests will be developed for incorporation in RG 1.174 and SRP Chapter 19. The guidance development process will include early release of the draft modifications to ACRS, CRGR, and the public; meetings with stakeholders, ACRS, and CRGR on the draft modifications; and issuance of proposed final modifications. The modifications will be transmitted to the Commission for information in September 2000 following review by ACRS and CRGR.

The Commission should note that more extensive modifications to RG 1.174 are being developed in parallel, as described in my memorandum of June 30, 1999, to the Commission on the annual review of RG 1.174. That effort will be initiated by the Office of Research (RES) in March 2000 and will take approximately 1 year, including time for public comment and ACRS/CRGR review. The staff will inform the industry of the final guidance on the use of risk-informed decisionmaking through a RIS within about 1 month following Commission consent, and will issue the guidance formally as part of the subsequent RES revision of RG 1.174.

Revision 3 of NRR Office Letter 803 was issued on December 30, 1999. The revision included expanded guidance to project managers concerning types of license amendments and

situations that may warrant consultation with or review by the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch, NRR. The guidance, which also reflects the key points in SECY-99-246, is considered sufficient for the interim period while the staff finalizes the guidance regarding special circumstances, interacts with stakeholders, and revises RG 1.174. The staff will revisit the guidance in Office Letter 803 and will include additional or updated information and references, as appropriate. These modifications will be transmitted to the Commission together with the final modifications to the regulatory guide.

The schedules for the initial RIS and the revision of RG 1.174 and Office Letter 803 have been included as items in the Tasking Memorandum.

cc: SECY  
OCA  
OGC  
OPA  
CFO  
CIO

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\*See previous concurrences

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