

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER DIAZ
SUBJECT: **SECY-99-244 - LOCATION OF THE NRC'S TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER AND APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SIMULATORS**

Approved XX Disapproved XX Abstain _____
in part *lv* in part

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS:
See attached comments.

[Handwritten Signature]

SIGNATURE

2/23 /2000

DATE

Entered on "AS" Yes XX No _____

**COMMISSIONER DIAZ'S COMMENTS ON SECY-99-244 -- LOCATION OF THE NRC'S
TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER AND APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SIMULATORS**

Based on the extensive interactions I have had on this topic with my fellow Commissioners, the NRC's staff, and NRC management, as well as considering the additional information provided by the Chairman on February 18, 2000, I support moving the Technical Training Center (TTC), including all four simulators, to NRC headquarters. In preparing for this move, the Office of Human Resources should be fully engaged to ensure that the transitional needs of TTC employees and their families are met. I am available to meet with HR to discuss options and proposals as needed.

In deliberating on this matter, I considered a range of information, including the fine information presented by representatives of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce. However, I believe this is the right decision in view of the NRC's need to effectively carry out its regulatory mission, and that the benefits to the agency will substantially outweigh the costs associated with the move. Training is essential to the development and maintenance of staff expertise, which is fundamental to the agency's continued effectiveness. The TTC's relocation should be integral to enhancing NRC capabilities, and technical training as a whole should be restructured to focus on developing NRC staff to be regulators. As we progress into a more risk-informed era, our staff needs to gain a better understanding of reactor operations, both routine and non-routine. In this regard, my support for maintaining four simulators is given with the understanding that their utilization will be substantially increased.

In conjunction with the implementation of the new oversight process for nuclear power plants, the efforts to risk-inform 10 CFR Part 50, and relocating the TTC, the staff should develop an integrated training plan that links the abilities needed to implement the NRC mission to training course offerings, with particular emphasis on reactor operations training. This would improve the staff's cognizance of cross-cutting technologies among reactor vendor types, and thereby provide insights into regulatory issues. This comprehensive plan should include the use of multi-screen desktop computers to be used as a prerequisite to simulator training.

Restructuring training can help to close the gap between headquarters and regional staffs by providing a common understanding of operational safety issues. I believe there is substantial value to be gained by restructuring our training programs, and the agency needs to make the appropriate investments in time and resources to ensure a payoff. Finally, I further believe that restructuring reactor technical training should not be done in isolation, but should be one part of a larger effort to enhance capabilities and performance across the entire agency.

