

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER DIAZ

SUBJECT: SECY-00-0010 - CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RENEWAL OF FULL-POWER OPERATING LICENSE

Approved ^{w/comments} Disapproved ^{w/comments} in part Abstain
[Handwritten initials] *[Handwritten initials]*

Not Participating

COMMENTS:

See attached comments.

REC'D BY WJD --

3 JAN 03 3:13

[Handwritten Signature]

 SIGNATURE

3.14.2000

 DATE

Entered on "AS" Yes X No

COMMISSIONER DIAZ'S COMMENTS ON SECY-00-0010

I approve the staff's recommendation that the Commission authorize the renewal of the operating licenses for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1 and 2. The staff is to be commended for its exacting review of these first renewal applications and for its dedication in meeting the milestones for timely completion of its safety and environmental analyses. The results of the review also reflect well on the licensee's ability, and its confidence in the ability of its workforce, to meet the requirements for safe extension of the life of these units.

I disapprove, however, the staff's recommendation that the Commission authorize the Director of NRR to issue future renewal licenses in uncontested proceedings without the need to seek the Commission's specific approval. I appreciate that the effect of renewal is to continue to permit full-power operation. I also recognize that the staff's disciplined review in the instant case provides evidence that Commission authorization is probably unnecessary for assurance that safety will be maintained. On the other hand, obtaining the Commission's approval does not appear to be a burden. Moreover, the NRC, licensees and the public appropriately recognize the decision to renew a power plant license as one of great significance. Indeed, the Commission's handling of the early applications for power plant license renewal must rank among the most important of the Commission's activities for the foreseeable future. In addition, the mere fact that a proceeding is not formally contested does not necessarily equate to the absence of serious issues for resolution. Thus, I believe it is most consistent with the Commission's exercise of its responsibilities, and as a by-product most likely to maintain or increase public confidence, if the staff seeks the Commission's approval for issuance of a renewal license, even in uncontested proceedings, for at least several more years.

