

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: Chairman Burns

SUBJECT: COMSECY-16-0006: REVISION TO THE AGENCY'S LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAM AND RELATED REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Approved X Disapproved Abstain Not Participating

COMMENTS Below Attached None X

Comments:

Entered in STARS

Yes X

No



Signature

31 March 2016

Date

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER SVINICKI
SUBJECT: COMSECY-16-0006: REVISION TO THE AGENCY'S
LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAM AND RELATED
REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Approved XX Disapproved _____ Abstain _____ Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached XX None _____



SIGNATURE

04/ 5 /16

DATE

Entered in "STARS" Yes No _____

**Commissioner Svinicki's Comments on COMSECY-16-0006
Revision to the Agency's Long-Term Research Program and
Related Reporting to the Commission**

I approve the staff's proposal to re-examine how long-term research at the NRC can be performed more effectively and efficiently. I note the staff's admission that in preparing SECY-16-0009, "Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities," the staff considered including the Long-Term Research Program (LTRP) as an item to be shed. However, after examining the annual status update of the LTRP projects, provided as an enclosure to this paper, I arrived at a similar conclusion to that of the staff. At bottom, the topic areas appear to have varying degrees of connection to the NRC's regulatory program of work, but in every case the LTRP projects appear to be planned and executed on a pace and in a manner disjointed from the associated work in the corresponding inspection and licensing programs. For example, the project entitled, "Strategic Approach for Obtaining Material and Component Aging Information from Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants" is intended to result in data to "support the evaluation of aging management programs for potential subsequent license renewal applications," but the project itself – which develops only a roadmap for the collection of such data – does not end until FY 2017. This timing does not appear to align with the agency's planned completion of updated guidance on this topic (a draft of which is already released for public comment) or the receipt of a possible first subsequent license renewal application in 2018. Clearly, a relook at this and the other LTRP projects is needed.

The staff's reassessment of the LTRP should begin with a review of past LTRP projects, to include an assessment of the practical effects of the results of past projects on the regulatory framework and the role and impact of these past projects on regulatory outcomes. If the staff recommends continuing the LTRP, the staff should also develop objective measures of efficiency for LTRP projects and establish methods to tie interim milestones and schedules more directly to user needs in the licensing and oversight programs. In examining the value of the LTRP, the staff should examine similarities and overlap between the LTRP and the generic issues program, including an assessment of how integration between the two programs could be beneficial and whether the two programs could be blended to accomplish the objectives of both in a more efficient manner.

At the time of Commission action on COMDEK-06-001, the agency was facing the prospect of a national nuclear renaissance and the need for a strong anticipatory research program at the NRC was more readily apparent. I appreciate the staff's recognition that circumstances are clearly different ten years later. In light of this, a fundamental reconsideration of the LTRP is appropriate at this time.



Kristine L. Svinicki

5 April 2016

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER OSTENDORFF

SUBJECT: COMSECY-16-0006: REVISION TO THE AGENCY'S LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAM AND RELATED REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Approved xx Disapproved _____ Abstain _____ Not Participating _____

COMMENTS Below xx Attached _____ None _____

Comments:

I approve the staff's proposal to reconsider the Agency's Long-Term Research Program to examine how long-term research can be performed more effectively and efficiently. This proposal is in keeping with the objectives of Project AIM, and I encourage the staff to continue to identify opportunities such as this to ensure an efficient and effective use of NRC resources.

Entered in STARS

Yes _____

No _____



Signature

3/17/16

Date

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: Commissioner Baran

SUBJECT: COMSECY-16-0006: REVISION TO THE AGENCY'S
LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAM AND RELATED
REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Approved XX Disapproved _____ Abstain _____ Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below XX Attached _____ None _____

I approve the staff's proposal to reassess the Long-Term Research Program. I agree with the staff that we should evaluate and update how NRC conducts long-term research in order to maximize the value of this work, which is important to maintaining a balanced portfolio of confirmatory and anticipatory research. I appreciate the staff's thoughtful approach and look forward to reviewing the staff's plans later this year.

Entered in STARS

Yes XX

No _____



Signature

4/1/16

Date