

January 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki

FROM: Martin J. Virgilio */RA/*
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SAFETY CULTURE TASK FORCE INTERFACE WITH
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SAFETY CULTURE AND
CLIMATE SURVEY

This memorandum is to request the Commission approval of the staff's intended approach to accomplishing the Commission's direction given in the staff requirements memorandum dated April 3, 2008. This direction states, in part, "The staff should provide the Commission with a report outlining potential initiatives that could improve the agency's internal safety culture. The staff should present the initiatives to the Commission for its consideration within three months of completion of the [Office of the Inspector General] Safety Culture Survey."

In response to this direction, the staff formed an Internal Safety Culture Task Force (ISCTF) which was formally chartered on October 24, 2008. The final ISCTF report will be forwarded to the Commission in April 2009. The staff also recognizes that the Commission has asked to be briefed on internal safety culture activities during a public Commission meeting on May 27, 2009, and intends to provide the ISCTF report to the Commission in support of that meeting. The due date for this report is April 21, 2009, to OEDO and April 28, 2009, to the Commission (WITS 200800187).

Although they are separate and independent organizations, the ISCTF has maintained communications with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding ISCTF activities and the OIG schedule for implementing the next Safety Culture and Climate Survey (SCCS). During the December 9, 2009, briefing to the Commissioner Assistants, the staff noted that based on information from OIG regarding the pace of the contracting process, the SCCS results may not be available in time to support the intended ISCTF schedule. During the OIG entrance meeting with the staff on January 6, 2009, OIG indicated that the SCCS would be conducted in May 2009, with preliminary (i.e., numerical) results available to the staff in July or August and a final official report issued by early fall 2009.

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Therefore, staff's intended approach is to complete the ISCTF report with recommendations and provide this to the Commission as planned in April, but will include a commitment to complete a review of the SCCS results/analysis no later than three months following issuance of the OIG's final report. The staff would provide this review to the Commission and, as appropriate, recommend any further actions or modifications to its earlier actions based on insights derived from the SCCS results. This review may not necessarily be performed by the same staff members who participated in the ISCTF.

This approach allows the existing ISCTF to maintain its current momentum, come to an orderly closure, and support the May 27, 2009, Commission meeting.

SECY, please track

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
CFO