

February 2, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS -- BRIEFING ON INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, 9:30 A. M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2006, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by staff in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) on NRC's participation in international cooperative research. The Commission concurs that such research is a valuable and cost effective resource. The staff should continue its practice of evaluating individual programs and projects for their relevance to nuclear regulation, i.e, their contribution to Commission decision making.

The compilation of information on NRC's international research programs which the staff provided as background for this meeting is a very useful resource and should be kept up-to-date and made readily available to NRC staff, for example, on the internal website.

The staff should think strategically when undertaking research projects. RES and the program Offices need to work closely together to anticipate research needs, such as resolution of generic safety issues, and to structure their program to identify and learn from other fields of research which have application to nuclear regulation. The staff should also continue to monitor the Department of Energy's research activities to identify areas of mutual interest, while continuing to avoid unnecessary duplication of research efforts.

The staff should continue to make the results of NRC regulatory research available to the public, whenever practicable.

The staff should continue its emphasis on supporting experimental research at international facilities when comparable facilities do not exist in the U.S. and take full advantage of opportunities such as the Paks fuel damage event to obtain data that will enhance the accuracy of computer models used for regulatory decisions.

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
OGC  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG  
OPA  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR