



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 18, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM: Shirley Ann Jackson *Shirley Ann Jackson*

SUBJECT: STREAMLINING NRC ADJUDICATIONS --  
COMND 97-007/COMEM 97-004

This memorandum responds to your December 15, 1997, memorandum on streamlining NRC adjudications.

I do not believe that forming a broad-based task force to study the adjudicatory procedures and recommend changes to streamline the adjudicatory process is appropriate or necessary at this time. As your memorandum acknowledges, I share your concern that the hearing process must be comprehensive while being as efficient as possible. In recognition of this concern, I tasked the General Counsel with reviewing the current adjudicatory procedures in 10 C.F.R. Part 2 to determine whether the adjudicatory process could be expedited (without rule changes) for license renewal and license transfer proceedings. The General Counsel intends to complete this review no later than February 2, 1998. The Commission should review the results of the review by the General Counsel before committing significant additional resources to this issue. The review by the General Counsel may provide enough information so that the Commission can establish direction concerning this process in order to improve both efficiency and effectiveness. I therefore think that taking any additional action at this time would be premature.

cc: Commissioner Dicus  
B. P. Cotter, ASLBP  
OGC  
OCAA  
EDO  
CFO  
CIO



OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

*December 30, 1997*

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** *Chairman Jackson*  
*Commissioner Diaz*  
*Commissioner McGaffigan*

**FROM:**

*Commissioner Dicus*

*Greta Joy Dicus*

**SUBJECT:**

**STREAMLINING NRC ADJUDICATIONS**

*I concur in principle with the proposition that we should periodically review our adjudicatory processes. Periodic reviews for improvements should be a regular part of our attempt to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in our regulatory processes. In fact, in addition to the possible areas for review noted in COMNJD-97-007/COMEXM-97-004, I would add that it may be appropriate in conducting a review to consider the success and effectiveness of past Commission efforts to assure that admitted contentions in proceedings have reasonable bases and that the contentions are reasonable related to the question being considered before conducting a hearing on those contentions.*

*At this time, however, I am not convinced that a task force is necessary to conduct this periodic review of the adjudicatory process, particularly in light of the impending OGC analyses referenced in the Chairman's response to the joint memorandum from Commissioners Diaz and McGaffigan. I conclude that we should review the OGC papers, expected in the near future, and reserve the question of whether a formal task force is necessary until after we have completed that review.*

**cc:** *B.P. Cotter, ASLBP*  
*K. Cyr, OGC*  
*J. Cordes, OCAA*  
*EDO*  
*CFO*  
*CIO*  
*SECY* ✓