

January 2, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Lyons

FROM: Commissioner Jaczko /RA/

SUBJECT: A COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFETY CULTURE

A healthy safety culture is an important part of ensuring the protection of the public in the generation of nuclear power and the use of radioactive materials, and the NRC should pursue continued progress in this area. Staff's efforts to advance this program for operating nuclear reactors have generated very positive results as attributes of safety culture have been in place within the Reactor Oversight Process for almost 18 months. This initial implementation period has provided the agency with sufficient data to assess and formalize an agency-wide safety culture initiative.

It is an appropriate time to complement the 1996 policy statement on a safety conscious work environment and the 1989 policy statement on the safe conduct of nuclear power plant operations. After years of work in this area, and after the operating experience of the ROP effort, the Commission should now direct the staff to provide the Commission with a draft "Policy Statement on Safety Culture." This policy statement should be broad and explain the Commission's expectations for a healthy safety and security culture at all NRC licensees. It should be developed through outreach to Members of Congress and other stakeholders. I look forward to working with my colleagues and our stakeholders to review and finalize this policy statement as a logical next step in our increasing focus on safety culture.

SECY, please track.

cc: OGC
EDO
CFO