

September 8, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-169 - P

ROPOSED

CHANGE TO THE INDEPENDENT RADIATION MONITORING
PROGRAM UNDER WHICH THE NRC CONTRACTS WITH
STATES TO MONITOR THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND NRC-
LICENSED FACILITIES

This is to advise you that the Commission has not objected to the staff's proposal to eliminate the independent radiation monitoring program (IRMP) beginning in fiscal year 1999. The staff should notify the affected States of the discontinuance of the program and inform NRC licensees that the environmental monitoring requirements described in 10 CFR Part 50 do not preclude a licensee from contracting with a governmental agency (including a State) to perform such monitoring. However, the NRC places ultimate responsibility on its licensees for adequate environmental monitoring regardless of who performs it. As a result, before contracting for such services, licensees should determine that a prospective environmental monitoring program is adequate to meet NRC license and regulatory requirements. A licensee could enhance public trust if it voluntarily contracts with a State or other independent organization to perform environmental monitoring around its facilities. This approach would address concerns expressed previously by the States regarding the perceived need for independent environmental monitoring and would allow the States to receive funds under contract from the licensee to perform such services.

cc:

Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
OGC
CIO
CFO
OCA
OIG
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACN

W, ASLBP (via
E-Mail)

PDR
DCS