

May 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-04-0055 - PLAN FOR
EVALUATING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND RADIATION
PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission has approved the staff's plan for evaluating scientific information and recommendations of national and international radiation protection organizations, subject to the following clarification.

The Commission has deep misgivings about the need to go forward with the development of a separate standard for the protection of non-human species, i.e., flora and fauna. The NRC staff should be involved in the on-going efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Commission on Radiation Protection on this topic to ensure that our opinion is heard. The NRC staff should expend appropriate resources to participate in this international effort and provide comments, but significant research dollars should not be spent on this effort. The staff should continue to articulate the Commission's view on this activity. If the international community desires to continue this effort, staff should participate to (1) maintain the focus of the IAEA activity on the development of an overall process for evaluating environmental impacts and (2) not support the development of specific IAEA standards in this area but rather leave the development of specific standards for the protection of non-human species to the individual national governments so that flexibility for implementation is maintained on a national level.

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