

March 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Klein  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
Commissioner Svinicki

FROM: R. W. Borchardt */RA Bruce M. Mallett Acting For/*  
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: PERIODIC UPDATE ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
CONCERNING THE NATIONAL SOURCE TRACKING SYSTEM

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Commission of technological developments and interagency efforts related to the National Source Tracking System (NSTS) and to request that the requirement to provide these periodic updates be eliminated.

The Staff Requirements Memorandum for SECY-06-0080, "Final Rule: National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (RIN 3150-AH48)," dated May 25, 2006 (M060525A), included the following direction:

As part of its interagency activities, the staff should keep abreast of technological developments and the efforts of other federal agencies involved in tracking radioactive materials on the ability to provide for real time tracking of nationally tracked sources in the future. The staff should periodically update the Commission on this aspect of source tracking.

The staff last updated the Commission in a memorandum, dated September 29, 2008 (ML082460338). Staff explored technological developments related to tracking radioactive materials through the Working Group on Vision of Technology (WG) as part of the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) for the NSTS. The WG, and its parent group, the ICC, have surveyed the tracking and tagging technologies currently in use or under development in the commercial and government sectors. These groups have since been sunset to achieve efficiencies, and the interagency Nuclear Government Coordinating Committee Radioisotope Sub Council (N-GCC-R), in which the NRC participates, has assumed responsibility for exploring technological enhancements for tracking technologies and has assigned lead responsibility to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration. The N-GCC-R collaborates with its counterpart

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industry group, the Nuclear Sector Coordinating Council Radioisotope Sub Council to identify and evaluate existing commercially available passive and active tracking technologies. They plan to evaluate different technologies for their ability to track conveyances, packages, and sources. The evaluation will address pros, cons, and cost (per unit basis as well as long term operating costs) of each technology.

Recent developments in technologies related to real-time tracking of sources have not been significant enough to warrant reporting to the Commission. In view of this lack of developments and the change in responsibility, staff requests permission to eliminate these periodic reports to the Commission. The staff will promptly notify the Commission of significant future developments that may occur in this area.

SECY, please track.

cc: SECY  
OGC  
OCA  
OPA  
CFO