

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M090320

March 31, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON THE NUCLEAR
EDUCATION PROGRAM, 9:30 A.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009,
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT
NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC
ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff and stakeholders on the nuclear education grant programs. The NRC staff discussed both the Curriculum and Education Grant Programs, status of FY 2009 funding, accomplishments, and lessons learned. Stakeholders who discussed their experience with the Curriculum and Education Grant Programs and the use of grants included Richard Toohey, President of the Health Physics Society; Michael Corradini, Member of the Nuclear Engineering Departments Heads Organization and Chair of the Department of Engineering Physics at the University of Wisconsin; Kenneth Lewis, Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering Technology at South Carolina State University; and Elaine Craft, Director of the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education National Resource Center for Expanding Excellence in Technical Education at Florence-Darlington Technical College in South Carolina.

The staff should inform the Commission on discussions with the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy on efforts to establish a jointly implemented Nuclear Science and Engineering Program for funding multi-year research projects, as directed by Section 313 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

The staff should develop contacts with the Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Labor to look for ways to leverage their education grants programs with NRC's programs.

As these grant programs progress, staff should track the number of degrees granted as a result of the programs in engineering (particularly nuclear engineering), science, and other nuclear-related fields of study critical to safe design, operation, construction, and regulation of nuclear facilities, and the safe handling of nuclear materials. The staff should also track the number of people in the pipeline studying these fields. In addition, the staff should estimate how much of the NRC's money is leveraged with private funds. Tracking this information will be useful in assessing the success and sustainability of these programs.

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR