

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M120327B

April 3, 2012

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

FROM: Andrew L. Bates, Acting Secretary **/RA/**

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – BRIEFING ON LICENSE RENEWAL
FOR RESEARCH AND TEST REACTORS, 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY,
MARCH 27, 2012, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM,
ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN
TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on research and test reactors license renewal, including activities to complete the review of the current backlog and plans for rulemaking. A panel of external stakeholders also briefed the Commission: Leo Bobek, Chair, National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors, Inc. (TRTR), and Reactor Supervisor, Nuclear Radiation Laboratory, University of Massachusetts Lowell discussed TRTR's position on the license renewal process. Sastry Sreepada, Director, Walthausen Reactor Critical Facility, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, discussed lessons learned from the licensing of their facility. Ralph Butler, Director, University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR), discussed MURR license renewal issues. Stephen Miller, Head, Radiation Sciences Department, Reactor Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), discussed AFRRI license renewal issues, including the status of efforts to meet timely responses to NRC requests for additional information in the current environment of limited Government budgeted resources.

Staff should provide a Commissioners' Assistants note exploring how generic analyses could be used by NRC to enhance the license renewal process for research and test reactors. The staff should also provide the Commission information on how aging is considered in the renewal of licenses for research and test reactors.

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