

February 22, 2000

MEMORANDUM: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Commissioner Dicus

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:]

SUBJECT: COMJSM-00-0001 - COMMISSION INTERACTION WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

I recommend approval of Commissioner Merrifield's proposal to revise the name of the "Office of State Programs" to the "Office of State and Tribal Programs." With respect to NRC's increased public outreach efforts with Native American Tribal nations as a direct result of our role and responsibilities surrounding the proposed high-level waste (HLW) repository, HLW transportation issues, the proposed HLW above ground interim storage facility in the State of Utah, and uranium recovery issues, I welcome the proposed change of the "Office of State Programs" to the "Office of State and Tribal Programs". This change will establish a recognized and formal organizational structure within the NRC to more appropriately facilitate and address our lines of communications and involvement with Tribal nations as we currently do with State and Local governments. If staff believes that significant resource implications would be inherited by this name change, it should notify the Commission of their concern and provide the appropriate human and financial resource support data, as well as suggested alternatives.

cc: EDO
SECY
OGC
OSP