

June 24, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Commissioner McGaffigan  
FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/  
SUBJECT: COMEXM-99-001 - RECONSIDERATION OF SECY-99-017 (PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 10 CFR 50.55A)

This memorandum is to inform you that all Commissioners have concurred in your proposal to proceed without further delay to update 10 CFR 50.55a and to consider elimination of the 120- month ISI and IST program update requirements separately. The attached SRM provides staff direction on this issue.

This completes action on COMEXM-99-001

Attachment: As stated

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner Merrifield  
EDO  
OGC

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June 24, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations  
FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/  
SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - COMEXM-99-001 - RECONSIDERATION OF SECY-99-017 (PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 10 CFR 50.55A)

The Commission directs that the staff complete the final rulemaking on 10 CFR 50.55a to incorporate by reference the 1995 Edition with the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants, subject to specific limitations or modifications determined following the consideration of public comments on the proposed rule issued in December 1997. The Commission also directs the staff to mandate the expedited use of Appendix VIII of the ASME Code, Section XI, as discussed in the rulemaking package, as well as to require the use of the 1995 Edition with the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code in the updating of inservice inspection (ISI) and inservice testing (IST) programs for those licensees approaching their next 120-month ISI and IST program interval, as discussed in the rulemaking package. The rulemaking package should be completed expeditiously and not be further delayed to include consideration of the elimination of the 120-month ISI and IST program update requirement. The issue of eliminating the 120-month ISI and IST program update requirement should be considered separately.

(EDO)

(Suspense Date: 8/27/99)

During consideration of the proposed elimination of the 120-month ISI and IST program update requirement, the staff should evaluate public comments received on the April 1999 rulemaking package, and discuss this issue further with the ACRS. The staff should also evaluate the implications of introducing backfit considerations to 10 CFR 50.55a relative to ISI and IST program requirements if the 120-month update requirement is eliminated. The staff should report to the Commission the results of these efforts, along with options and recommendations regarding the efficacy and desirability of eliminating the 120-month update provision.

(EDO)

(Suspense Date: 9/30/99)

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz

Commissioner McGaffigan

Commissioner Merrifield

OGC

CIO

CFO

OCA

OIG

ACRS