

COMMISSIONER DIAZ'S COMMENTS ON COMSECY-99-034

I believe that the staff has properly endeavored to bring greater clarity to the manner in which it handles requests from the public for information about outage schedules when the only source of information is verbal communication with licensees or NRC staff. The Commission needs to recognize and, where appropriate, balance the needs of the public for information in addressing concerns regarding public health and safety as well as licensees' rights in protection of proprietary information. After carefully reviewing the draft guidance before the Commission, however, I disapprove its issuance since I do not believe it is as simple, understandable and straightforward as it should be for functionally handling verbal information.