

June 17, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON PROGRAM TO IMPROVE REGULATORY
EFFECTIVENESS (SECY-97-103), 3:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1997,
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the proposed program to improve regulatory effectiveness.

The Commission urged the staff to seek a positive definition for regulatory effectiveness, define how it relates to regulatory excellence (particularly within the context of DSI-23), and determine how the key elements of DSI-23 are tied to the activities of the program offices and the proposed actions to enhance regulatory effectiveness. The Commission encourages the staff to develop a mechanism to effect broad participation from the staff in this effort. The staff should provide a paper to the Commission which describes the proposed actions.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 9/30/97)

Subsequently, the Commission approved the staff's request to withdraw the paper.

Based on the staff's presentation and the Commission's review of the staff's proposed program reflected in SECY-97-103, the Commission believes that the staff may have misunderstood the guidance that the Commission has provided on enhancing regulatory excellence. In view of this, the Commission urges the staff to carefully study the March 27, 1997 Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) -- COMSECY-96-067: Enhancing Regulatory Excellence (DSI 23). In particular, the staff should review that part of the SRM that addresses the development of NRC performance goals, including timeliness goals, and the staff should request further Commission guidance or clarification if needed. In accordance with the directives in that SRM, the staff should develop recommendations and a plan for a comprehensive, systematic, agency-wide approach to program assessment and improvement that will implement the guidance that the Commission has provided on DSI 23.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: Recommendations: 9/30/97
Plan: 12/31/97)

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
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