



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 16, 2022

SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: Daniel H. Dorman
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-21-0109 – RULEMAKING
PLAN ON USE OF INCREASED ENRICHMENT OF
CONVENTIONAL AND ACCIDENT TOLERANT FUEL DESIGNS
FOR LIGHT-WATER REACTORS

The Commission has approved the staff's proposal to initiate a rulemaking to amend requirements for the use of light water reactor fuel containing uranium enriched to greater than 5.0 weight percent uranium 235. The provisions of the rule should only apply to high-assay low-enriched uranium fuel, both for nonproliferation and safeguards reasons and to focus the staff's analysis on the range of enrichment most likely to be contemplated in future applications.

Fuel fragmentation, relocation, and dispersal issues relevant to fuels of higher enrichment and burnup levels should be appropriately addressed and analyzed in the regulatory basis for this rulemaking.

The staff should take a risk-informed approach when developing this rule and the associated regulatory basis and guidance.

The staff should work expeditiously with stakeholders to identify and develop necessary regulatory guidance and technical bases to support effective and efficient licensing of increased enrichment applications.

The staff should re-examine the schedule to determine if key milestones can be achieved sooner than projected by leveraging ongoing regulatory innovation efforts.

The Commission has also approved staff's recommendation to engage the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to review the proposed and final rules, and to engage the Committee to Review Generic Requirements early if there is an indication of a potential backfit.

cc: Chairman Hanson
Commissioner Baran
Commissioner Wright
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA