

REQUEST REPLY BY: 6/7



CHAIRMAN REC'D
07 MAY 24 AM 9:01

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

May 22, 2007

COMSECY-07-0019

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons

Approved.

Dale E. Klein
Dale E. Klein 6/1/07

FROM: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NRC RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE RUSSIAN
RESEARCH CENTER AND THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

This memorandum provides a biennial report on the status of research conducted by the Russian Research Center (RRC) and the Russian Academy of Science (RAS) and requests Commission approval to discontinue submitting biennial reports given the stability of the program.

The RRC and the RAS have been performing research for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under bilateral agreements since 1991. This work has been funded by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and has involved research in code development and assessment, hydrogen combustion experiments, high-burnup fuel test data, in-vessel debris coolability experiments, evaluation of reactor pressure vessel surveillance data, uncertainty analysis methods, and development of concrete-containment failure criteria. Over time, the parties have developed a solid working relationship and there have been no significant concerns with the administration of this work. From 1991 through 2003, RES provided annual reports to the Commission describing the NRC research programs being conducted in Russia. As identified in SECY-03-0081, "Status of USNRC Research Conducted by the Russian Research Center (I.V. Kurchatov Institute) and the Russian Academy of Sciences and Letters of Agreement," dated May 19, 2003, interactions between the agencies became routine and staff requested to eliminate the reporting requirement. In Staff Requirements Memorandum to SECY-03-0081, dated June 10, 2003, the Commission disapproved the staff recommendation, and directed staff to reduce the reporting frequency to once every two years.

The bilateral agreement with the RRC took effect on August 11, 2002, and expires on August 11, 2007. There are no plans to extend the agreement for the fuel behavior and material science research program. The RRC program analyzed and published high-burnup fuel data from a pulse reactor, which became part of the database RES used to resolve the reactivity-initiated accident issue (Research Information Letter 0401, dated March 31, 2004). The data results and analysis of this high-burnup fuel experimental study were formally

CONTACT: Alison DeBree, RES/DRASP
(301) 415-5059



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E. McGaffigan
5/24/07

FROM: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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FROM: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

[Handwritten signatures and date 5/29/07]

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Gregory B. Jaczko Date

FROM: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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Peter B. Lyons 6/5/07
Peter B. Lyons Date

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