

April 11, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary /RA/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON STATUS OF RES PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS,
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on the status of programs, performance and plans in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES).

The Commission expects the staff to complete expeditiously its realistic engineering assessments of the potential vulnerability of nuclear power plants and spent fuel pools to terrorist attacks.

The Commission expects staff to respond promptly to published research in areas of concern to NRC which reflect questionable analysis and conclusions. In particular, staff should develop a brief critique which responds to the "Alvarez report" ⁽¹⁾ and informs NRC stakeholders, and the general public, of how it deviates from NRC's own research conclusions.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 4/24/03)

As part of the budget process, the staff should identify what is being done to gain RES efficiencies by properly discriminating between what should and what should not be done at the front end rather than at the back end of research.

The staff should inform the Commission of the options for developing a more robust materials focused program in RES.

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR

1. Robert Alvarez, et. al., "Reducing the hazards from stored spent power-reactor fuel in the United States," January 31, 2003, <http://www.ips-dc.org> (to be published in *Science & Global Security*, Spring 2003).