



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

April 16, 2020

Mr. Matthew W. Sunseri, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ACRS ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF SELECTED  
NRC RESEARCH PROJECTS – FY 2019

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

Thank you for your March 10, 2020, letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML20062E857) transmitting the report entitled, "ACRS Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Projects – FY 2019." The Committee's annual reports have assisted the NRC staff in improving the quality of our programs and products to support licensing and related regulatory functions of the agency over many years. Your review of staff products provides valuable feedback and enhances the creditability of the agency's research programs.

In your March 10 letter, you expressed a willingness to explore alternatives to the annual quality assessment. In response to your offer, in lieu of the annual quality assessment, our office would benefit from the Committee's review of our planned research activities in the areas of emerging technologies. For our programs to remain relevant, they must reflect such technologies, and the Committee's engagement would allow for robust and timely feedback on the scope and expected benefits of such research activities. The first of these interactions could occur in the fall of 2020 and could potentially include discussion of future-focused research and university research grant activities or other topics in the area of emerging technologies.

The RES staff values the Committee's feedback and will use your suggestions to improve our research programs. We look forward to discussion on research topics in the fall.

Sincerely,

Raymond V. Furstenau  
Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research

RESPONSE TO THE ACRS ASSESSMENT ON QUALITY OF SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS – FY 2019

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**ADAMS Accession No.: (PKG) ML20085J086 (LTR) ML20107F777**

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