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No. 1 of 2 copies, Series B

Dr. T. J. Thompson, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Thompson:

The recommendations <sup>but</sup> concerning the ACT reactor contained in the Committee's December 13, 1960 letter to Chairman McCone have been reviewed by the staff of the Division of Licensing and Regulation. With the exception of the recommendation specifying that a minimum stack height of 250 feet should be provided, the Committee's recommendations are in general accord with the views expressed by the staff in its analysis of the ACT project dated December 6, 1960.

We are not convinced, however, that the recommended increase in stack height would result in a substantial increase in safety to the public. Release of radioactive gaseous effluents at the increased elevation would, for average weather conditions, reduce the concentration of the stack gases at ground level in the areas immediately around the stack, - out to distances of 10 or so stack lengths. In particular but infrequent weather situations, the ground concentration from a higher stack would be somewhat reduced even at large distances. Conversely, under some conditions, even near the stack, there would be little or no practical difference in air concentration of stack effluents. Furthermore, increasing the stack height would decrease the reliability and effectiveness of close-in field measurements of air concentrations which is a key ingredient of the controlled operation plan of the ACT.

Thus, it is our opinion that the stack height should be sufficient to give protection to the ACT facility itself and the immediately adjacent areas. We believe the presently proposed stack will do this. However, a substantial increase beyond this height would result in no practical increase in protection to people at large distances and in addition would make it more difficult to carry out the close-in field monitoring-operational control scheme now planned.

We would like to have opportunity to discuss this further with the Committee at its next meeting.

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Sincerely yours,

*MIC*

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