

November 2, 2000

Salih Guntay
Group Leader
CH-5232 Villigen PSI
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Guntay:

As requested in your letter of September 19, 2000, we have asked our MELCOR contractor, Sandia National Laboratories to provide you a copy of MELCOR and an input deck for Grand Gulf. We have also asked our RELAP5 contractor, Information Systems Laboratories, Inc., (ISL) to provide you with a copy of the input deck for Grand Gulf and the background material you requested. However, they have informed us that a RELAP5 deck for Grand Gulf does not exist, and hence we cannot provide it to you.

The development and assessment of an improved control blade/channel box model for incorporated into MELCOR as you outlined in your September 19, 2000 letter, would be a significant improvement over the current modeling, and we would welcome the opportunity to include it in our next release of MELCOR. The NRC is not currently planning to make any new releases of the SCDAP/RELAP5 code, therefore, there are no code improvements' underway. Nevertheless, we are always interested in any new results and insights form users of our code. The SCDAP technical assistance, you have requested will be available from our SCDAP code maintenance contractor, ISL.

As part of our ongoing program to improve the modeling capabilities of the NRC severe accident codes and the CSARP program, we encourage members of the international nuclear safety community to provide improvements and modifications to the codes to the NRC so that we can enhance the capabilities of the codes and provide these improvements to everyone. We believe that the program that you have outlined, if successful will provide a useful improvement to the state-of-the-art in severe accident analysis.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Farouk Eltawila, Acting Director
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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