

September 27, 2001

Mr. Edward Lyman
Nuclear Control Institute
Suite 410
1000 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036

Dear Mr. Lyman:

I would like to confirm our invitation for you to participate in the upcoming Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC). As you may know, this conference was formerly known as the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM). The name was changed this year to reflect more accurately, the scope of our research activities and the issues that are being addressed. The objective is still the same, (i.e., to promote dialogue among diverse stakeholders about research activities that develop and confirm the technical bases for current and future regulatory decisions).

This year, as part of our program activities, we are planning to have a panel discussion on advanced reactors. I believe that your organization's activities and your views in this area would be of interest to our audience and, therefore have extended this invitation for you to participate in this panel. The panel discussion on "Advanced Reactors" is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2001, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Each panel member will be allotted time to give a brief (10–15 minutes) summary on the following suggested topics (1) overview of ongoing research programs for advanced reactors, (2) key technical and licensing issues associated with advanced reactors, and (3) future research for advanced reactors, followed by a dialog between the audience and panelists.

This year's conference will also include technical review sessions for advanced reactors, dry cask research, fuels research, age-related research, and risk-informed regulatory practices. The conference will be held October 22–24, 2001, at the Marriott Hotel at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW, Washington DC. We expect the attendees, as in the past, will be from the NRC, national laboratories, private research firms, reactor vendors, utilities, universities, and many international organizations. The preliminary agenda is enclosed.

I look forward to your joining us in October.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:
2001 NSRC Preliminary Agenda

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1000 Connecticut Avenue NW
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Sincerely,
/RA/
Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:
2001 NSRC Preliminary Agenda

Identical letters with attachment sent to: See attached list

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OFFICE	D:DSARE		D:RES	
NAME	TKing:mmk		AThadani	
DATE	09/27/01*		09/27/01*	

Letter dated September 27, 2001

Subject: Invitation to participate in upcoming Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Nuclear Safety Research Conference

Identical letters with attachment sent to:

Mr. Ron Simard
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW
Washington DC 20006-3708

Dr. Vladimir Asmolov, Director
Nuclear Safety Institute
Russian Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"
Kurchatov Square
Moscow 123182
Russia

Dr. Pete Lyons
c/o Senator P. Dominici
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

AGENDA - September 28, 2001
Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC)
(formerly known as the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSB))
October 22-24, 2001
Marriott at Metro Center
(775 12th St. NW, Washington DC)

Monday, October 22, 2001

8:00-8:15am	Opening Remarks - Ashok Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research	
8:15-9:00am	Keynote Speaker - Richard Meserve, Chairman, NRC	
9:00-9:30am	Recent Accomplishments - Roy Zimmerman, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research	
9:30-11:30am	<p>Overview of International/U.S. Research Programs - Panel Discussion (Coordinators: A. Hsia/A. Szukiewicz/ Chair: A. Thadani)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The panel will provide an overview of other safety research programs in the U.S. and overseas.</p> <p><u>Panel Members Include:</u> M. Livolant (IPSN), W. Magwood (DOE), T. Marston (EPRI), and K. Soda (JAERI)</p>	
11:30-12:15pm	Plenary - Commissioner Greta J. Dicus (Topic - TBD)	
12:15-1:45pm	LUNCH	
1:45-5:00pm	<p><u>Advanced Reactors Session</u> Chair: T. King, NRC Co-Chair: S. Floyd, NEI</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate specific research activities related to preparing the Agency to review an advanced design.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NRC Pre-application Activities on HTGR, J. Flack (NRC) 2. NRC Preparation for Future Reactor Licensing, J. Lyons (NRC) 3. A New Risk-Informed Design and Regulatory Process , M. Golay (MIT) 4. The Need for a New Regulatory Framework, S. Floyd (NEI) 5. HTGR Research Programs and Needs, T. King (NRC) 6. Industry View on R&D Needs for New Plants, E. Rodwell (EPRI) 7. Pre-application Activities for IRIS and Related Research Needs, M. Carelli, S, Ritterbusch (Westinghouse) 	<p><u>Dry Cask Research Session</u> Chair: M. Cunningham, NRC Co-Chair: J. Guttman, NRC</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments and future plans in the Office of Research's work to assess key safety and risk issues relating to the licensing of dry cask fuel storage devices.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Package Performance Study - A Study of Spent Fuel Transportation, A. Murphy, R. Lewis (NRC), J. Sprung, K. Sorenson (SNL) 2. A Risk Analysis of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Dry Casks, C. Ryder, E. Rodrick, J. Guttman (NRC) 3. Seismic Behavior of Spent Fuel Storage Cask Systems, S. Khalid Shauket (NRC) 4. An Analysis of a Spent Fuel Transportation Cask Under Rail Tunnel Fire Conditions , C. Bajwa (NRC)

Tuesday, October 23, 2001

8:15-10:30am

**Waste and Decommissioning - Panel Discussion
(Coordinator: C. Trottier/Moderator: Edward McGaffigan, Jr., Commissioner, NRC)**

Objective: The panel will discuss current research initiatives in addressing issues in human and environmental health risk assessment.

Panel Members Include: A. Wallo (DOE), M. Boyd (EPA), T. Cardwell (CRCPD), C. Paperiello (NRC), and L. Baekelandt (Federal Agency for Nuclear Control in Belgium)

10:45-12:45pm

**Advanced Reactors - Panel Discussion
(Coordinator: T. King/Moderator: Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Commissioner, NRC)**

Objective: The panel will give an overview of ongoing programs and discuss the following: safety attributes of advanced designs, key issues with respect to licensing, key issues with respect to development, research needs/priorities, and the outlook for the future.

Panel Members Include: R. Simard (NEI), T. Marston (EPRI), W. Magwood (DOE), V. Asmolov (KI), E. Lyman (NCI), P. Lyons (U.S. Senate Staff (Senator Pete Domenici))

12:45-2:15pm

LUNCH

<p>2:15-6:00pm</p>	<p>Fuel Research Session Chair: R. Meyer, NRC Co-Chair: R. Yang, EPRI</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments in NRC's fuel research program and related programs that are used by NRC through cooperative agreements.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of High Burnup Fuel Behavior Under LOCA Conditions at JAERI - Hydrogen Effects on the Failure-bearing Capability of Cladding Tubes, F. Nagase, H. Uetsuka (JAERI) 2. Overview of Test Results on Mechanical Properties of Unirradiated and Irradiated Zr-1%Nb E110 Alloy Cladding, L. Yegorova, E. Kaplar, K. Lioutov (RRC), V. Smirnov, A. Goryachev (Russian State Research Center) 3. High Temperature Oxidation of Irradiated Limerick BWR Cladding, Y. Yan, R. Strain, M. Billone (ANL) 4. Status of the CABRI International Programme and Preparation for the CIP0 Test Series, J. Papin, C. Marguie, F. Lemoine, M. Faury, J. C. Melis (IPSN) 5. FRAPTRAN Fuel Rod Code and its Coupled Transient Analysis with the GENFLO Thermal Hydraulic Code, K. Valtonen (STUK), A. Hamalainen (VTT), M. Cunningham (PNNL) 	<p>Age Related Issues and Research Session Chair: N. Chokshi, NRC Co-Chair: W. Bateman, NRC</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To provide information on NRC's current research activities related to aging and age related degradations, and how these activities relate to some of the current operating experiences and other emerging issues. In part, this session will also provide information on aging management activities in other industries.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stress Corrosion Cracking and non-Destructive Examination of Dissimilar Metal Welds and Alloy 600, D. Jackson 2. Regulatory Activities Related to Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles, A. Hiser (NRC) 3. Aging Evaluation of Cables in Japan, A. Yamaguchi (Japan Power Engineering Corporation) 4. FAA Enhanced Airworthiness Program for Managing Aging in Airplane Systems, M. Sadeghi (FAA) 5. Methods to Integrate Aging Effects into Probabilistic Risk Assessments, A. Buslik (NRC) 6. Age-Related Degradation of Structures and Passive Components at Nuclear Power Plants, J. Braverman (BNL), B. Ellingwood (Georgia Inst. of Tech.), D. Naus (ORNL), T.Y. Chang (NRC)
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Wednesday, October 24, 2001

<p>8:00-10:00am</p>	<p>Communicating the RES Role and Program - Panel Discussion (Coordinator: J. Johnson/Moderator: Patricia Norry, Deputy Executive Director for Management Services, NRC)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The panel will explore and seek innovative ways to communicate the role and the scope and content of the RES program, with particular emphasis on objectives, products, and regulatory applications.</p> <p><u>Panel Members Include:</u> D. Cates (Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives), M. Conley (Inside N.R.C.), A. Howard (NEI), A. Kadak (MIT), D. Lochbaum (Union of Concerned Scientists), T. Okkonen (STUK), and Margaret Federline (NRC)</p>
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<p>10:15-11:30am</p>	<p><u>Fuel Research Session (Cont'd)</u></p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>6. Pulse Width Variations in a Rod Ejection Accident, D. Diamond (BNL)</p> <p>7. The Industry-Proposed New RIA Criteria for Burnup Extension, N. Waeckel (Electricite de France), R. Montgomery (Anatech Corporation), R. Yang (EPRI)</p> <p>Poster Paper: Needs for Experimental Programmes on LOCA Issues Using High Nurnup and MOX Fuels, A. Mailliat, M. Schwarz (IPSN)</p>	<p><u>Risk Informing Regulatory Practices Session</u></p> <p>Chair: M. Cunningham, NRC Co-Chair: C. Carpenter, NRC</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments and future plans in the Office's work to risk-inform agency regulatory practices, showing the breadth and value of such activities as well as describe key technical issues.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>1. An Overview of NRC Research Activities in PRA, S. Newberry, P. Baranowsky, M. Cunningham (NRC)</p> <p>2. Pressurized Thermal Shock Risk Assessment, D. Whitehead, V. Dandini (SNL), A. Kolaczkowski (Science Applications International Corp.), E. Thornsby, H. Woods (NRC)</p>
<p>11:30-1:00pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>1:00-3:30pm</p>	<p><u>Fuel Issues - Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>Chair: R. Meyer (Coordinator: R. Meyer)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> What issues should be addressed in an NRC safety research program, and is the current spectrum of research projects adequate?</p> <p><u>Panel Members Include:</u> T. King (NRC), R. Yang (EPRI), R. Reynolds (Framatome), G. Holahan (NRC), W. Shack (ACRS)</p>	<p><u>Risk Informing Regulatory Practices Session (Continued)</u></p> <p>3. Circuit Analysis in Fire Risk Assessment , S. Nowlen, F. Wyant (SNL), N. Siu, H. Woods (NRC)</p> <p>4. Risk-Based Performance Indicators and the Inspection Process, P. Baranowsky (NRC)</p> <p>5. EPRI Strategic Action Plan for Risk Technology, J. Gaertner, J. Haugh (EPRI)</p>
<p>3:45-4:15pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks/Audience Feedback - Ashok Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research</p>	