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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



July 21, 1961

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Subject: THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, JULY 6-8, 1961

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The thirty-fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards was held in Washington, D. C. on July 6-8, 1961. A summary of the meeting follows.

Specific Reactors

The ACRS reviewed the proposed operation of the PM-1 with representatives of The Martin Company, the Department of Defense and the AEC staff.

The Committee reviewed the current status of the EBWR with representatives of Argonne National Laboratory and considered its proposed operation at 100 MW(t).

The Committee met with representatives of the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation and the staff of the Division of Licensing and Regulation to review plans for the operation of the Saxton Reactor.

At the request of the Division of Licensing and Regulation, the Committee reviewed with representatives of Picatinny Arsenal and the staff of the Division of Licensing and Regulation the suitability of the site proposed for the Picatinny Research Reactor.

The Committee reviewed with representatives of Brookhaven National Laboratory plans to construct the Brookhaven High Flux Beam Research Reactor.

Representatives of the Fluor Corporation and the AEC Staff presented design plans for the Experimental Organic Cooled Reactor which were reviewed by the Committee.

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Separate reports on each of the above projects have been sent to you.

The Committee heard information sessions on the NS SAVANNAH and the Hallam Nuclear Power Facility.

Miscellaneous

A letter furnishing advice on the start-up of Naval reactors has been sent to you. This item was discussed with representatives of the Naval Reactors Branch during the Committee's May meeting.

Representatives of the Division of Compliance briefed the Committee on their activities since the last ACRS meeting.

A letter which requests information in connection with the operation of the Ft. Belvoir Reactor (SM-1) has been sent to you.

During this meeting, the Commission asked that the Committee furnish comments in connection with the proposed siting by Southern California Edison of a large power plant at Camp Pendleton, California. Although there was not sufficient time for detailed study, the ACRS offered the following comments:

1. The Committee believes that relocation of this reactor to a site within one or two miles of that presently proposed would not substantially alter the effect on the health and safety of the public.
2. Resiting to a location approximately seven miles north of the proposed site does not rule out its being acceptable. It might, however, require additional engineered safeguards in order to properly protect the public.
3. The Committee does not believe that the Pendleton site, upon which advice has already been furnished, can be said to be the only suitable site in Southern California for a project of this type.

The Committee was asked by a representative of the Division of Reactor Development to furnish during its July meeting, if possible, its comments on the repair of the cladding in the Elk River Reactor pressure vessel. The Committee is unable to do this until further information is furnished by the applicant. A subcommittee of the ACRS expects to meet

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in the near future with the AEC staff and the applicant for further discussion of this case.

The Committee discussed briefly with the Regulatory Staff reports furnished by the Division of Reactor Development describing difficulties encountered in the operation of the Plutonium Recycle Test Reactor. The ACRS was informed that a further report will be made during the September meeting of the Committee.

→ The ACRS has noticed that not all the reactor proposals it examines include a provision for monitoring the wind direction and speed at the reactor sites. In connection with routine atmospheric disposal of radioactive waste gases, and also to provide information vital to the implementation of emergency and evacuation procedures in case of an accident, an indication of the existing site wind speed and direction should be immediately available to the reactor operator. Such wind-measuring equipment is, in general, not expensive and is readily available commercially. The ACRS, therefore, advises that a representative, continuous recording of wind speed and direction should be available at the site of each power and testing reactor.

We do not think it necessary to write a separate regulation containing this requirement, but believe that it should eventually be incorporated into a guide of good practice. Temporarily, we would like to see the DL&R incorporate this in its judgment of good practice.

ACRS subcommittees have met with applicants and the AEC staff on a number of projects as noted below:

Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant - June 2, 1961
Criteria and Standards - June 3, 1961
Picatinny Arsenal Research Reactor at Picatinny -
June 12, 1961
Brookhaven High Flux Reactor at New York City -
June 22, 1961
Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation at Saxton -
June 23, 1961

Individual members of the ACRS have participated in the following meetings which were sponsored by the AEC Regulatory Staff:

Elk River Reactor Pressure Vessel - June 2, 1961
Radiation Damage to Reactor Pressure Vessels -
June 30, 1961

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Future Meetings and Agenda

The following were proposed as possible agenda items by the Division of Licensing and Regulation for the thirty-sixth ACRS meeting which is scheduled for September 7-9, 1961, in Washington, D. C.

Advanced Test Reactor
Consolidated Edison Thorium Reactor
PM-3A (McMurdo Sound, Antarctica)
Port of Galveston, Texas (proposed refueling base
for NS SAVANNAH)
Hallam Nuclear Power Facility
City of Los Angeles Reactor
Borax V
Experimental Beryllium Oxide Reactor
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant
Enrico Fermi Atomic Power Plant (PRDC)
Heavy Water Components Testing Reactor
Savannah River Production Reactors
Oak Ridge Molten Salt Reactor
National Bureau of Standards Research Reactor

Sincerely yours,

Sgd/T. J. THOMPSON

T. J. Thompson
Chairman

R. Lowenstein
Acting Director, Division of L&R

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H. L. Price H. L. Price
Acting Director of Regulation

CLIPPING FROM HARTFORD TIMES, 7/18/61 RE NUCLEAR SITES

Please get Dr. Beck's answer to this for Mr. Olson.

Encl.
Clipping

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Typewritten note: Dr. Clifford K. Beck (w/copy attach)
via: Price and Lowenstein

Dr. Beck:

What might be the basis for such a statement?
Have you ever made such a statement? In the event ~~ky~~
you have not previously considered the problem, what
would be your appraisal of the situation?

/s/ LKO

OFFICE ▶	REG <i>Price/mm</i>						
SURNAME ▶	H. L. Price/mm						
DATE ▶	7/25/61 <i>sm</i>						