

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 10, 1960

Honorable John A. McCone  
Chairman  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: REACTOR ACCIDENTS

Dear Mr. McCone:

On April 3, 1960, the Westinghouse Testing Reactor experienced an accident of such severity that the radiation contamination and other consequences caused the reactor to be shut down for a period of five months.

Subsequently engineering modifications to the reactor system and changes in operating procedures were proposed and carried out by the applicant. These changes were reviewed by the Commission staff and on September 7, 1960, the Commission granted authority for re-start and operation of the reactor.

Copies of the documents describing the system changes were furnished to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards by the Commission, but no advice was requested.

At the request of the Committee, a representative of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, in an information session on September 22, 1960, briefed the ACRS on the accident and the corrective measures taken.

The ACRS believes that when any reactor because of a serious accident requires substantial repairs, change of design, or operational procedures, the Committee should be requested to give advice as to whether the changes proposed insure adequate protection for the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles Silverman*  
Charles Silverman  
Chairman

cc: A. R. Lueders, RM  
W. F. Flynn, /GERS  
Dr. L. Pryor, Dir., D&ER

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