

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

March 4, 1961

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

Subject: WESTINGHOUSE TESTING REACTOR (WTR)

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The Committee is in receipt of the letter from A. R. Luedecke, General Manager, on this subject, dated March 1, 1961.

This reactor is a testing reactor which experienced rather serious difficulties subsequent to the last review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The Committee believes that it should review the modified design and method of operation of this reactor and the experimental program which it will carry out. The desirability of this review is further emphasized since it is understood that there have been changes in design and method of operation of this reactor since its last review by the Committee.

The Committee would like to schedule a review of the design and method of operation of this reactor, together with the experiments currently being performed and those proposed. In particular, the Committee desires to obtain information on the design and testing of the control system and the verification of the margin of safety with regard to burnout of fuel elements or their melting due to failure of the coolant system. A proposed time for the review would be during the May 1961 meeting. The Committee would appreciate receiving this information prior to its meeting. The AEC staff and the owners and operators of the reactor should be present to enable the Committee to obtain all pertinent facts.

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Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg

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The Committee is not aware of any reason for suspending the operation of this reactor pending its study and review.

Sincerely yours,


T. J. Thompson
Chairman

Reference:

Letter - A. R. Luedecke to T. J. Thompson, dated March 1, 1961

cc: A. R. Luedecke, GM
W. F. Finan, AGMRS
H. L. Price, Dir., DL&R