

August 15, 2002

Mr. Robert Van Adel
Chief Executive Officer
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
901 15th Street NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20005-2301

SUBJECT: ACR-700 PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Van Adel:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Meserve, dated June 24, 2002, in which you announced the launching of the Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR-700) design initiative in the U.S. market. The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) anticipated that announcement based on your letter to me dated June 19, 2002, requesting that we begin a pre-application review of the ACR-700 design.

To begin discussions concerning the pre-application review of the design certification process for the ACR-700 design, the NRC hosted a public meeting with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) representatives at NRC headquarters on July 24, 2002. At that meeting, AECL provided a presentation on the evolution of the ACR-700 design, as well as a proposed licensing plan and schedule. A separate memorandum will be issued to summarize the meeting. During the discussion, the participants agreed that the AECL representatives would conduct a more detailed technical presentation at NRC headquarters on September 25-26, 2002.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact Robert Pascarelli, the Project Manager for the ACR-700 design review at (301) 415-1245 (e-mail: rjp3@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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OPA
K. Burke
D. Carlson

cc:

Mr. Charles Brinkman
Westinghouse Electric Co.
Washington Operations
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Ms. Wenonah Hauter
Public Citizen
Critical Mass Energy Project
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Thomas P. Miller
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-20, Rm. A286
Headquarters - Germantown
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. William D. Magwood, IV
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science &
Technology
Director of the Watchdog Project
NE-1, Room 5A-143
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. Paul Gunter
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. James Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Laurence Parme
General Atomics
2237 Trinity Drive
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. Ron Simard
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Hugh Jackson, Policy Analyst
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy
and Environment Program
1724 Duarte Drive
Henderson, NV 89014

Patricia Campbell
Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Ed Rodwell, Manager
PWR Design Certification
Electric Power Research Institute
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

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

Mr. Jack W. Roe
SCIENTECH, INC.
910 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Mr. John Schlecht
Institute of Iron Working Industry
Suite 400
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. David Ritter
Research Associate on Nuclear Energy
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs
FRAMATOME, ANP
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA. 24501

Mr. Tom Clements
6703 Gude Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mr. Vince Langman
Licensing Manager
AECL Technologies Inc.
901 15th Street, NW., Suite 440
Washington, DC 20005-2301

Mr. Victor G. Snell
Director of Safety and Licensing
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
2251 Speakman Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5K 1B2

Mr. Glenn R. George
PA Consulting Group
Chrysler Building, 34th Floor
405 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10174

J. Alan Beard
GE Nuclear Energy
13113 Chestnut Oak Drive
Darnestown, MD 20878-3554

Mr. James Blyth
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, Station B
P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5S9