

October 25, 2002

Dr. Rizwan Uddin
Department of Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering
University of Illinois (MC 234)
214 NEL, 103 S. Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dr. Uddin:

Thank you for your willingness to share your ideas and recommendations on anticipatory research. The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research conducts anticipatory research to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is prepared for safety challenges associated with new designs, new technology, expected industry initiatives, and emerging safety issues.

In your response to the Anticipatory Call, you briefly mentioned the following two areas: (1) Improving the geometry modeling capabilities of the current suite of deterministic (i.e., non-Monte Carlo) core analysis codes, and (2) Advanced lattice physics codes and methods for homogenization and collapsing of cross section data for use in the nodal spatial kinetics analysis of evolutionary and advanced reactors.

We intend to consider work in both of these areas. They are alluded to in our advanced reactor research plans but deserve much more discussion and attention. We will be considering these activities during our prioritization activities in preparation for the next budget cycle. If the work is prioritized sufficiently high and we require contractual support, we will provide opportunities to respond to any request for proposals.

I thank you for your continuing interest in nuclear safety. Your response to the Anticipatory Call is greatly appreciated and I look forward to receiving your ideas and recommendations in response to future Anticipatory Calls.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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