

November 20, 2002

Dr. John Lee
University of Michigan
2355 Bonisteel Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2104

Dear Dr. Lee:

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. I would like to address your specific recommendations.

Your suggestion indicated that there was a need for accurate and efficient integration of system codes for analysis of transient and accident conditions for both current and advanced reactors. We agree that this is an important research activity and have been pursuing this goal for some time. We will continue to seek out support in these activities and recognize your interest in this area.

You also recommended that online surveillance and maintenance capability be incorporated into advanced designs. We identified analysis of online monitoring systems and methods and advanced diagnostic methods as an important research activity in our advanced reactor research plan. Research in this area will be prioritized along with other important infrastructure needs. If this work is prioritized sufficiently high, we will seek additional support in this area.

Finally, you recommended that we modernize our computer codes. Once again, we agree with your recommendation and have been updating, and will continue to update, our codes to current state-of-the-art. As we move forward with the possibility of regulating advanced reactor designs, modernizing and expanding our computer codes will be a high priority. We appreciate your interest in this area as well.

I thank you for your continuing interest in nuclear safety research and ideas for improvement. 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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* Previously concurred.

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