



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Announcement No. 041

Date: July 19, 2001

To: All NRC Employees

SUBJECT: CREATION OF AN ADVANCED REACTOR GROUP IN THE OFFICE OF
NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has established an Advanced Reactor Group (ARG) in the Regulatory Effectiveness Assessment and Human Factors Branch (REAHFB), within the Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness (DSARE). The ARG will serve as a focal point for RES advanced reactor activities and will report to John Flack, Acting Branch Chief, REAHFB. Stuart Rubin is the Senior Level Advisor to the ARG, and Project Manager of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor pre-application review. Other members of the ARG include Prasad Kadambi and Donald Carlson Sr. (on rotation from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)). Raji Tripathi will also assist the ARG on a part-time basis.

Responsibilities of the ARG include managing, in coordination with the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and NMSS, non-light-water reactor (LWR) advanced reactor pre-application activities, and supporting NRR in activities related to advanced LWRs. Current activities include a pre-application review of Exelon's PBMR design, in accordance with SECY-01-0070 [Plan for Pre-application activities on the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor dated April 25, 2001], and interface with the Department of Energy on the Generation IV reactor program.

The ARG will use a matrix approach to capitalize on technical expertise across the Office, and to advance RES expertise in evolving technology. Within DSARE, the REAHFB will support human factor reviews, and the Safety Margins and Systems Analysis Branch will provide technical support on thermal hydraulic analysis, fuel performance, and severe accident analysis for advanced system designs. Probabilistic Risk Assessment and licensing framework support will be provided by the Division of Risk Analysis and Applications; support on material issues including high-temperature performance of systems, structures, and components will be provided by the Division of Engineering Technology (DET), Materials Engineering Branch; and support on instrumentation and control systems for advanced designs will be provided by DET, Engineering Research Applications Branch.

The charter for the Advanced Reactor Group is attached. It is recognized that the results to be obtained by the ARG are dependent on the cooperation of all RES Divisions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Flack at (301) 415-7488.

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Ashok. C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Attachment: As stated

Attachment

CHARTER

RES Advanced Reactor Group

The Advanced Reactor Group has been formed to implement the action plan described in SECY-01-0070 [Plan for Pre-application activities on the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor dated April 25, 2001], and to act as a focal point for ongoing and new non-LWR advanced reactor research initiatives and activities. The group will maintain the following responsibilities:

- Identify and support new regulatory initiatives associated with non-LWR advanced reactor activities.
- Conduct pre-application reviews of non-LWR advanced reactor designs consistent with Commission's Advanced Reactor Policy Statement.
- Interact with NRR's New Reactor Licensing Project Office on plant siting and licensing matters, and NMSS on fuel cycle including the manufacturing and disposal of reactor fuel for advanced reactor designs.
- Interact with ACRS/ACNW on matters pertaining to its responsibilities.
- Coordinate public meetings and workshops to obtain Stakeholder's input and establish open communication.
- Support implementation of an advanced reactor training program that will foster the knowledge and understanding of non-LWR advanced reactor system technology.

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