UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ACRSR-1506
PDR

January 13, 1993

The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: SECY-92-413, "INCIDENT INVESTIGATION OPTIONS REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION"

During the 393rd meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, January 7-8, 1993, we discussed the staff's proposed options as described in SECY-92-413 for the Incident Investigation Program. The staff proposes the formation of an Incident Investigation Group (IIG). We generally endorse this proposal and would like to be kept informed of further progress in this area. However, we have some comments regarding options being considered for the makeup of the IIG membership.

As noted in SECY-92-413, it is important that the IIG be competent and independent in order to enhance its effectiveness and credibility. We believe that these attributes may be unnecessarily compromised by some of the proposed options. In particular, we are concerned about the exclusion of experts affiliated with the nuclear steam system suppliers or architect-engineers. These people should be among those who possess the highest level of expertise available. Further, we recommend that the participation in and control of the IIG by the NRC be minimized to help preserve at least the perception of independence.

We are in general agreement with the proposed purpose and scope of the IIG function. However, we urge that further consideration be given to allowing the IIG to make recommendations on the basis of its investigation. The staff's proposal recommends that the IIG report not contain recommendations.

Sincerely,

Paul Shewmon

Paul Shewmon
Chairman

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Reference:
SECY-92-413, dated December 16, 1992, for the Commissioners from James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, Subject: Incident Investigation Options Reporting to the Commission (Predecisional)