



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

ACRSR-2066A

February 26, 2004

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE NRC SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dear Chairman Diaz:

Attached is an advance copy of the 2004 ACRS report entitled, "Review and Evaluation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Research Program." This report presents the Committee's observations and recommendations concerning the NRC Safety Research Program. The final report will be published as NUREG-1635, Vol. 6.

This report focuses on that portion of the NRC research program dealing with the safety of existing nuclear reactors and advanced light water reactor designs, AP1000 and ESBWR, submitted for certification. In its review of the NRC research activities, the Committee considered the programmatic justification for the research as well as the technical approach and progress of the work. This review attempts to identify research crucial to the NRC mission. This review also attempts to identify research activities that have made valuable contributions to the agency mission in the past, but now have reached the point where additional research is not needed for efficient and effective safety regulation. The report does not address research on the vulnerability of existing nuclear power plants to acts of sabotage and terrorism.

As agreed to by the Commission, the ACRS will provide its next report to the Commission on the overall NRC Safety Research Program in March 2006.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Mario V. Bonaca  
Chairman

Attachment: As stated

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