



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 28, 1987

Cys: Stello
Taylor
Rehm
Murley, NRR
Beckford, RES
Murray, OGC/B
EDO R/F

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Carr
Commissioner Rogers

FROM: Lando W. Zech, Jr. *Lando W. Zech, Jr.*

SUBJECT: COITR-67-3 - ACRS COMMENTS ON THE ADVANCE NOTICE OF
PROPOSED RULEMAKING: DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR
OPERATORS

Each of the concerns expressed by the ACRS were carefully considered by the Commission during review of SECY-87-101, Issues and Options Concerning Degree Requirements for Senior Operators. Upon completion of our deliberations, the Commission majority agreed that a rule was the appropriate method to be used in this case. The ACRS has advanced no argument that would compel me to change my position on this matter.

It is gratifying to know that the ACRS agrees with the goals of the Commission in the subject matter. I regret that they do not agree with the Commission majority concerning the method to be used to achieve those goals.

During my recent visit to Arkansas Nuclear One, I spoke with a number of licensed operators who were participating in a utility-sponsored program which would result in their receiving a bachelor of science degree. The individuals I spoke with were very enthusiastic about the program and considered it to be a valuable job benefit. I firmly believe that such a program, if carefully developed by responsible management with public safety foremost in mind, will result in a substantial improvement in the ability of our licensed operators to recognize and respond to unfamiliar operating situations and, thus, will result in a substantial increase in public safety.

It is my opinion that these issues will be further explored and developed as the process of developing the Rule continues. I also believe that we will revisit these issues during the orderly process prescribed for rulemaking.

cc: ACRS
EDO
SECY

Cy: Ross
Speis
Kelber
Sheron/Minners
F. Coffman
A. Rubin
Morris/Rosztoczy
Marcus

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PDR REVQP NRGCRGR
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