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

April 7, 2010

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

During the 570th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), March 4-6, 2010, we completed our review and evaluation of the safety research sponsored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Enclosed is an advance copy of the 2010 ACRS report entitled, "Review and Evaluation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Research Program." The final report will be issued as NUREG-1635, Vol. 9.

This report presents our observations and recommendations concerning the NRC Safety Research Program being carried out by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. In our evaluation of the NRC research activities, we considered the programmatic justification for the research as well as the technical approaches and progress of the work. This report does not address the research being done at NRC on issues of reactor security or the threat of sabotage. The ACRS views on current work in the area of security have been reported in separate documents. Two pertinent, interdisciplinary efforts, the State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequence Analyses Project, and the study of sump screen blockage are not addressed in this report. These projects are actively followed by the Committee. The ACRS has been providing interim reports on the technical approach and progress of these activities.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Said Abdel-Khalik
Chairman

Enclosure:
As stated

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