

May 25, 2010

Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM (EDATS: SECY-2010-0204)

Dear Dr. Abdel-Khalik,

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards's (ACRS's) letter to the Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko dated April 7, 2010, enclosing Volume 9 of NUREG-1635, "Review and Evaluation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Research Program."

I want to express my appreciation for the ACRS's continued valuable review and evaluation of NRC's safety research program. Throughout the years, the ACRS's evaluations and suggestions have helped to improve the program.

I agree with your observation that, although most safety research programs are responsive to user needs from the regulatory offices, the risk of not funding more speculative research is mitigated by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research's long-term research program. I also appreciate the ACRS's recognition of the expanding importance of international collaboration in multiple areas of safety research. The staff expects to continue such collaborative efforts in the future.

The staff's responses to ACRS's specific observations and recommendations are contained in the enclosure. We will consider your recommendations as we execute the research programs and develop plans and budgets for upcoming fiscal years.

S. Abdel-Khalik

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I look forward to continued interactions with the ACRS on the programs that were the subject of the present review and on the interdisciplinary programs that will be reported separately. Again, I thank the Committee for its efforts during the present review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:

Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

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DISTRIBUTION: G20100224/LTR-10-0171/EDATS: SECY-2010-0204

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