February 04, 2011

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

SUBJECT: ACRS ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF SELECTED NRC RESEARCH PROJECTS – FY 2011

Dear Dr. Abdel-Khalik:

Thank you for your recent letter dated November 15, 2010, transmitting the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) report entitled, "ACRS Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Projects – FY 2010." This annual report assists us in evaluating the quality and usefulness of selected programs that the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducts to support the mission of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I responded to your specific comments from the fiscal year (FY) 2010 review in a separate letter dated January 25, 2011 and available at accession number ML103560826.

I also want to thank you for incorporating the process change that I proposed prior to the last review. The enhanced process allowed for greater involvement of the RES project managers and their program office counterparts during the review process.

The purpose of this letter is to propose multiple NRC research projects for possible ACRS review during FY 2011. I am proposing the following NRC research projects for your consideration:

- NUREG/CR-6969: Analysis of Experimental Data for High Burnup PWR Spent Fuel Isotopic Validation—ARIANE and REBUS Programs (UO2 Fuel), February 2010 (ML100850211).

- NUREG/CR-7014: Processes, Properties, and Conditions Controlling In Situ Bioremediation of Uranium in Shallow Alluvial Aquifers, July 2010 (ML102650454).

- NUREG/CR-7015: Analysis of JNES Seismic Tests on Degraded Piping, July 2010 (ML102040141).

- NUREG/CR-7027: Degradation of LWR Core Internal Materials Due to Neutron Irradiation, December 2010 (ML102790482).

- NUREG-1922: Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis of Natural Circulation Flows in a Pressurized-Water Reactor Loop under Severe Accident Conditions, February 2010 (ML110110152).

The RES staff values the Committee's input and will use the insights provided in your report to identify ways to further improve our programs in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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