



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 25, 2016

Dr. Dennis Bley, 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 2016

Dear Dr. Bley:

Thank you for the Committee's recent letter dated November 17, 2015, transmitting the report entitled, "ACRS Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Projects – FY 2015." This annual report assists the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) in evaluating the quality and usefulness of selected programs to support the mission of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The purpose of this letter is to propose multiple NRC research project candidates for ACRS consideration and review during FY 2016. The candidate projects are listed here for your consideration:

- NUREG-1824, Supplement 1, "Verification and Validation of Selected Fire Models for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" ([ML15327A250](#))
- BWR Anticipated Transients Without Scram in the MELLLA+ Expanded Operating Domain (Parts 1 to 4)
 - NUREG/CR-7179, "BWR Anticipated Transients Without Scram in the MELLLA+ Expanded Operating Domain, Part 1: Model Development and Events Leading to Instability" ([ML15169B064](#))
 - NUREG/CR-7180, "BWR Anticipated Transients Without Scram in the MELLLA+ Expanded Operating Domain, Part 2: Sensitivity Studies for Events Leading to Instability" ([ML15169A168](#))
 - NUREG/CR-7181, "BWR Anticipated Transients Without Scram in the MELLLA+ Expanded Operating Domain, Part 3: Events Leading to Emergency Depressurization" ([ML15169A268](#))
 - NUREG/CR-7182, "BWR Anticipated Transients Without Scram in the MELLLA+ Expanded Operating Domain, Part 4: Sensitivity Studies for Events Leading to Emergency Depressurization" ([ML15169A528](#))

- Effects of Thermal Aging and Neutron Irradiation on Crack Growth Rate and Fracture Toughness of Cast Stainless Steels and Austenitic Stainless Steel Welds
 - NUREG/CR-7185, “Effects of Thermal Aging and Neutron Irradiation on Crack Growth Rate and Fracture Toughness of Cast Stainless Steels and Austenitic Stainless Steel Welds” ([ML15202A007](#))
 - NUREG/CR-7184, “Crack Growth Rate and Fracture Toughness Tests on Irradiated Cast Stainless Steels” ([ML15201A101](#))
- NUREG/CR-7200, “Influence of Coupling Erosion & Hydrology on the Long-Term Performance of Engineered Surface Barriers” ([ML15121A285](#)) expected to be published in April 2016

The RES staff values the Committee’s review and will use your suggestions to improve our research program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael F. Weber
Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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