



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

August 30, 2016

Dr. Dennis Bley, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: DRAFT FINAL REGULATORY GUIDE 1.230, "REGULATORY GUIDANCE ON THE ALTERNATE PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK RULE," AND DRAFT FINAL REPORT NUREG-2163, "TECHNICAL BASIS FOR REGULATORY GUIDANCE ON THE ALTERNATE PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK RULE"

Dear Dr. Bley:

Thank you for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' (ACRS) recent letter dated July 18, 2016. In this letter, the ACRS recommended that Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.230 and NUREG-2163 should be issued. These documents provide regulatory guidance and the technical basis for licensees to use the alternate pressurized thermal shock (PTS) rule in 10 CFR 50.61a, "Alternate fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock events".

This letter confirms that the staff is taking the necessary steps to issue these documents. Specifically, the following steps are being taken:

- The staff is finalizing the response to public comments on the RG.
- Following completion of the RG, the staff will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* to announce the NRC's finalization of both Regulatory Guide 1.230 and NUREG-2163.

These actions should be completed in about two months from the date of this letter. The NRC staff values the review and thanks the ACRS.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Burns
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Baran

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML16207A430

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