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Mr. Victor Stello, Jr.  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Stello:

SUBJECT: FIRE RISK SCOPING STUDY

In our July 16, 1986 letter to the Commission concerning fire protection issues, we urged reconsideration of the budget and manpower allocations to the fire-related portions of the NRC safety research program. In response, in a memorandum dated July 24, 1986, Chairman Zech recommended that the Staff work closely with the ACRS to assess further research needs and to consider what priority should be given to fire protection research. The Staff acted in January 1987 by initiating the Fire Risk Scoping Study at the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and we provided our views on the scope and direction of this Study in a report to the Commission dated August 10, 1987.

During our 337th meeting, May 5-7, 1988, we met with representatives from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and SNL to discuss the results and conclusions of the Fire Risk Scoping Study. This matter was considered by our Subcommittee on Auxiliary Systems during a meeting on March 9, 1988. We also had the benefit of the document referenced.

We were informed that the Staff is now considering what actions should be taken regarding the disposition of the recommendations resulting from the Study, and a decision is expected by the end of FY 1988. If some of the asserted results survive deeper scrutiny, they could be important. Therefore, we recommend that the Staff evaluate the results and conclusions of the Study and decide on a course of action on a schedule which permits any high-priority research to be initiated in FY 1989. We wish to be kept informed of further developments, and we expect to provide comments after the Staff has identified its proposed plans.

Sincerely,

W. Kerr  
Chairman

Reference:

Draft Report dated March 1988, Sandia National Laboratories, NUREG/CR-5088, SAND 88-0177, "Fire Risk Scoping Study: Investigation of Nuclear

Power Plant Fire Risk, Including Previously Unaddressed Issues"

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