

D870210

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

Dear Mr. Stello:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON TESTING OF CHARCOAL ADSORPTION CAPACITY

During the 322nd meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, February 5-7, 1987, we discussed the capability for testing charcoal adsorption capacity in filters used at nuclear power plants.

Current Technical Specifications require periodic testing of the charcoal in adsorption units designed to control releases of airborne radioiodine from nuclear power plants. However, "round robin" tests have shown that most commercial laboratories, both in the U. S. and abroad, lack the capability to determine the adsorption capacities of filter charcoals on an accurate and reliable basis. Although the NRC has supported research on this problem, current NRC plans are to terminate this support, based on the expectation that industry will assume responsibility for continuing this research.

In connection with NRC termination of this work, we believe that the industry group that is to assume responsibility to continue this work should be identified and assurances made that the program will be pursued to a successful completion.

Sincerely,

William Kerr
Chairman

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