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SUBJECT: Urges that high occupational dose exposures at CESSAR 80 plants be investigated.Application of ALARA principle should result in lower dose estimates.Basis for dose estimates has not been examined in detail.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 16, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Mr. Raymond F. Fraley
Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

Subject: OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES AT PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION AND OTHER SYSTEM 80 PLANTS

During its review of the CESSAR-80/Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, the ACRS was provided estimates of the annual collective occupational dose associated with the operation of each unit at the Palo Verde Station which may average well over one-thousand person rem. In view of the fact that these units are based on a standard design which supposedly incorporates application of the ALARA principle, the members expected somewhat lower dose estimates.

In this connection, it should be noted that the occupational dose estimates may have been unduly conservative and therefore misleading. The Committee's review did not provide an opportunity to examine the basis for these dose estimates in detail and this should be done to determine if they result from the CESSAR-80 design, the balance of plant design, the proposed method of operation, or other factors.

The Committee urges attention to this matter regarding the Palo Verde Station and the CESSAR-80 standardized plant design. The ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Radiological Effects would be pleased to discuss this matter further with the NRC Staff.

Raymond F. Fraley
Raymond F. Fraley
Executive Director
ACRS

cc: C. Mark, ACRS
H. Denton, NRR
E. Goodwin, NRR
D. G. Eisenhut, NRR
W. E. Kreger, NRR

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