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

JUL 9 1979

The Honorable Robert F. Drinan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Drinan:

Your letter of May 15, 1979 asked for our thoughts on the possibility that a thermal imaging instrument system (TV camera which patterns heat) marketed by Image Technology Methods Corporation might have application as a safety device in nuclear power plants. The information on this system supplied by your constituent, Mr. John H. Newitt, suggests that it might be used to monitor and alarm off normal thermal conditions in the reactor vessel and the containment building of a nuclear plant. However, the information supplied is not sufficiently detailed for us to make an assessment of its potential application. In order to make such an assessment, we would need details on the design and qualifications of the instrument system so that we can ascertain whether it can fulfill a useful safety function. We would also need to determine whether it can operate reliably in the high pressure, temperature and radiation environment of a reactor vessel and in the potentially high pressure, humidity and radiation environments of a reactor containment building.

If we are supplied with such information, we will give appropriate consideration to the potential application of the system. You may wish to suggest to Mr. Newitt that he may send this information directly to Dr. Roger J. Mattson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm  
Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director  
for Operations

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