



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

DEC 1 1979

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Mr. Floyd Lewis, Chairman
TMI Ad Hoc Nuclear Oversight Committee
Middle South Services
P. O. Box 61000
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Lewis:

On November 30, 1979, I wrote to you soliciting your help in getting the safety and relief valve testing program enlarged to encompass conditions calculated to occur for Anticipated Transients Without Scram (ATWS). Recently, Dr. Culler of EPRI called to ask for clarification associated with this request. He pointed out that EPRI is busy finalizing the test program called for in Mr. Eisenhut's letter of September 13, 1979, and my letter of October 30, 1979, to all operating nuclear power plants. They expect to have this program in place by the deadline established in my letter of January 1, 1980. Enlarging this program to include ATWS considerations would, if implemented now, very probably delay the submittal of the industry TMI follow-on program and Dr. Culler was reluctant to do this. He recommended instead that the TMI follow-on program be submitted on schedule, to be followed a month or two later by additional program components responsive to my request to you to include ATWS considerations.

I think Dr. Culler is right. Please do not delay the TMI follow-on program past the original schedule of January 1, 1980. It is quite satisfactory for the additional ATWS-related tests to be described in a supplement to the program plan a couple of months later.

I look forward to receiving both the program plan and the supplement and to completing this important safety program.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- cc: E. Case
- D. Eisenhut
- LS Hanauer
- R. Mattson
- A. Thadani

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