

UNITED STATES
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NRR OFFICE LETTER NO. 2

Subject: Standard Review Plans for Safety Evaluations

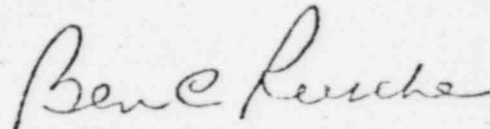
The completion and publication of the set of Standard Review Plans (SRP's) for the safety evaluation of nuclear power plants represents a major accomplishment and milestone. You, the staff, and Joe Hendrie are all to be commended. The SRP's represent the integrated result of the hundreds of conscious choices made by the staff and by the nuclear industry in developing design criteria and design requirements for nuclear power plants. Now that the plans are published and in use, they represent the most definitive basis available for specifying NRC's interpretation of an "acceptable level of safety" for light water reactor facilities.

In recognition of the importance of SRP's to the staff, the nuclear industry, and the public in assuring that features that are essential to protect the public health and safety are included in nuclear power plant designs, I expect that the content of the SRP's will remain fixed except for clarification or correction of error. Proposals to modify the plans will be considered only for matters of major safety significance. Each proposal to modify the Standard Review Plans must include an impact/value assessment.

Adoption of a substantive increase or decrease in the safety requirements of the Standard Review Plans will require consideration by the Directors of Reactor Licensing and Technical Review, review by the Regulatory Requirements Review Committee, and authorization by the Director, NRR. Standard Review Plans should be used by each NRR project manager and technical reviewer to assure consistent evaluation for all applications. Careful attention to the uniform implementation of SRP's by each individual NRR staff member will assure an acceptable level of safety for all plants licensed. The Directors of Reactor Licensing and Technical Review should develop jointly, procedures and guidelines for implementing these requirements.

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Implementation of this approach with respect to the Standard Review Plans should add stability to the licensing process and increase confidence that requirements imposed by NRC are commensurate with the safety value to be expected. Your careful consideration of this memorandum and its consistent implementation by the staff should enable NRR to carry out its statutory function with full consideration of the public interest.



Ben C. Rusche, Director
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