



CHAIRMAN

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

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne

FROM: Joseph M. Hendrie *JMH*

SUBJECT: ENCLOSED LETTERS

We have a letter from Chairman Udall, accompanied by a letter to him from Hal Lewis, related to the nuclear accident review board proposal made earlier by Lewis and recommended to our attention by Mr. Udall. You will recall that our reply to Lewis' proposal was that we saw no great merit, and some negative aspects, in the creation of yet another entity to investigate reactor safety matters. Copies of this correspondence are enclosed.

In his current letter, Chairman Udall recommends a trial review of operating incidents, licensee event reports, abnormal occurrences, etc., by a subgroup of ACRS or some other group. The intent of the review would be to see what implications might be found for improved reactor safety. I believe a fair summary of the proposed review would be Hal Lewis' comment:

"...I would still like to have someone look at the last couple of years of licensee event reports with a view toward selecting incidents which may not have threatened the public health and safety, but whose analysis might enhance the public health and safety."

With such a review carried out by a subgroup of the ACRS, and such consultants as the Committee would find helpful, I would think it a useful endeavor. I opposed the earlier Lewis proposal because it would have created, in effect, a second ACRS-type body. I have always felt the Commission needs a senior safety advisory committee, but have also felt we could not stand having two such bodies.

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I recommend we ask the ACRS to set up a suitable subgroup to make the trial review of incidents and occurrences, as the Udall and Lewis letters suggest.

Let me know what you think.

Enclosures:

1. Ltr. frm. Cong. Udall to Chrm. Hendrie
dtd. Nov. 28, 1978
2. Ltr. to Cong. Udall frm. H. W. Lewis
dtd. Oct. 4, 1978
3. Ltr. to Cong. Udall frm. Chrm. Hendrie
dtd. Aug. 7, 1978
4. Ltr. frm. Cong. Udall to Chrm. Hendrie
dtd. Jan. 27, 1978
5. Ltr. to Cong. Udall frm. H. W. Lewis
dtd. Nov. 23, 1977
6. Ltr. to Cong. Udall frm. Stephen Lawroski,
Chrm. ACRS, dtd. June 8, 1978

cc: SECY