



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

May 6, 1980

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Honorable John F. Ahearne  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: EXTENDED OPERATION OF SHIPPINGPORT LIGHT WATER BREEDER REACTOR

Dear Dr. Ahearne:

The Division of Naval Reactors, Department of Energy, in its letter of March 10, 1980, discussed its plan to operate the Light Water Breeder Reactor (LWBR) core at Shippingport Atomic Power Station beyond the 18,000 effective full power hours (EFPH) originally planned, and requested NRC comments by April 30, 1980 regarding the extended operation.

During its 241st meeting, May 1-3, 1980, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards discussed this proposal with representatives of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Bettis), Duquesne Light Company, the Division of Naval Reactors of DOE, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff. The Committee also had the benefit of the documents listed.

The Committee concurs with the NRC Staff's letter to Admiral Rickover dated April 30, 1980, which recommended that consideration be given to the bulletins, orders, and requests issued to the commercial nuclear power industry as a result of the TMI-2 accident.

Subject to the above, the Committee believes it to be acceptable to operate the Shippingport Atomic Power Station Light Water Breeder Reactor core to 24,000 EFPH as proposed.

Sincerely yours,

Milton S. Plesset  
Chairman

References:

1. Letter from H. R. Denton, NRC, to Adm. H. G. Rickover, DOE Naval Reactors, Subject: Continued Operation of Shippingport LWBR, dated April 30, 1980
2. Letter from H. G. Rickover, DOE Naval Reactors, to H. R. Denton, NRC (NR:D:H.G.Rickover Z#818) Subject: Light Water Breeder Reactor - Plans to Continue Operation of the Present Reactor Core
3. NBI Log No. 0203-80/0081L, "Information Report Concerning Extended Operation of the LWBR Core at Shippingport"

cc: Admiral H. G. Rickover