



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

June 11, 1980

Mr. William J. Dircks, Acting Executive
Director for Operations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: PROPOSED POSITION ON SEISMIC SCRAM

Dear Mr. Dircks:

The ACRS has, at various times and on various occasions, recommended the possible use of a seismic scram, set at a level of one-half to two-thirds the SSE level. This matter was discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on Extreme External Phenomena held on June 4, 1980. The NRC Staff has indicated that it does not now have a position for or against such a seismic scram, although seismic scrams of this type are currently employed in Japan.

The ACRS believes that a relatively modest study of the effects of seismic scram on various accident or transient scenarios, and an associated value-impact assessment, would provide the Staff with a basis for adopting a position. The Committee recommends that such a study be initiated, perhaps as a part of the SSMRP or as a technical assistance contract, and that this study be supported at a level that would make it possible to obtain useful results before the end of FY 1981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milton S. Plesset".

Milton S. Plesset
Chairman

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