



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

June 10, 1980

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

SUBJECT: THE FACTORING OF QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATES INTO SEISMIC SAFETY
EVALUATION

Dear Mr. Dircks:

In recent reviews of the seismic safety of reactors, including LACBWR and GETR, the Regulatory Staff and/or the Applicant have included probabilistic estimates of the safe shutdown earthquake, permanent fault displacement, liquefaction, etc. The Committee wishes to encourage such efforts. However, in connection with the development of such quantitative estimates, the ACRS believes it is appropriate to develop a rationale for including them in the decision making process in some consistent way.

The matter was discussed with members of the Regulatory Staff at the Subcommittee meeting on Extreme External Phenomena held on June 4, 1980.

The ACRS would appreciate learning what basis the Staff is developing in regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Milton S. Plesset
Chairman