



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

PDR

October 6, 1989

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Marcus H. Voth, Chairman
National Organization of Test,
Research, and Training Reactors
Director, Penn State Breazeale Reactor
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Voth:

The Commission has received your letter of September 7, 1989, regarding the consolidation of non-power reactor (NPR) activities within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As Chairman Carr indicated in his August 2, 1989 response to your letter of July 6, 1989, your proposal is being carefully considered.

The NRC staff has recommended to the Commission that increased headquarters management attention be devoted to non-power reactors. The staff has proposed a new Non-Power Reactor, Decommissioning, and Environmental Project Directorate within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to provide centralized management oversight of technical review, inspection, and enforcement activities for non-power reactors. The project director would serve as the NRC contact on matters pertaining to such facilities. In addition, a training course has been developed for non-power reactor inspectors. An initial session involving inspectors from all five NRC Regional Offices has been conducted to identify improvements that need to be made before the course is offered to all NPR inspectors. The Commission is currently evaluating these and other recommendations proposed by the staff and is expected to act on the proposals within the next few weeks.

With respect to your specific concerns regarding the administration of NRC requalification examinations at non-power reactor facilities, the staff is evaluating the level of risk associated with the operation of non-power reactors and the current requalification requirements, as stated in 10 CFR Part 55. The Commission will consider the need for changes in regulatory oversight based on the results of staff's evaluation.

I want to assure you that the Commission is aware of your concerns and is addressing the issues you have raised.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Roberts OF02

Thomas M. Roberts
Acting Chairman

8910170087
PDR COMMS
CORRESPONDENCE

891006
NRCC
PDC