



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

September 11, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Executive Director for Operations
FROM: John Ahearne *JA Ahearne*
SUBJECT: NEW SAFETY CONCEPTS FOR FUTURE CONSTRUCTION

At a recent ACRS meeting a question was raised regarding what effort the NRC is placing on developing new safety concepts for possible future construction of nuclear power plants. I would appreciate your addressing to what extent we are examining new ideas or safety issues for potential new nuclear plant design.

I would like to know what staff resources we are placing on these questions and also your views as to what would be the appropriate level of effort.

I am not proposing the NRC design power plants. The ACRS question, however, raises the issue of whether by not examining potential major safety improvements, we are foreclosing the possibility of any new plants being designed to a higher level of safety.

cc: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Bradford
✓ Secretary
ACRS

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