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MAY 29 1981



Dr. J. Carson Mark, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
Washington, D. C. 20555

SUBJECT: UNRESOLVED SAFETY ISSUE: SHUTDOWN DECAY HEAT REMOVAL
REQUIREMENTS, TASK A-45

Dear Dr. Mark:

This is in response to your letter to Chairman Hendrie of May 12, 1981 addressing proposed modifications to the North Anna Station, Unit No. 2 low pressure injection and residual heat removal systems.

We fully concur that an aggressive development and implementation of the Task Action Plan (TAP) for Task A-45, "Shutdown Decay Heat Removal Requirements," will best serve to improve the reliability of decay heat removal systems (DHRS) for all LWRs, including North Anna. Considering the Committee's specific comments, our TAP will give careful consideration to alternative DHRS, including those used in some foreign LWRs. The approach to this problem will not rely solely on probabilistic studies but will also utilize conventional engineering or deterministic based evaluations. With respect to resources, we agree that to accomplish in a timely fashion the ambitious program, as outlined to the Full Committee on April 10, 1981, and to the Ad Hoc ACRS Subcommittee on DHRS on May 5, 1981, will require considerable internal staff and outside contractor personnel. Although we have assigned a Task Manager to A-45, we are still in the process of trying to free-up some internal staff to work directly on Task A-45. We anticipate, however, that the majority of Task A-45 work will be performed by outside contractor personnel. In any event, our TAP will delineate in some detail internal and external manpower requirements.

Under separate cover, we are providing the Committee with our initial draft of the TAP for Task A-45. We would appreciate the Committee's review and comment on our draft plan, perhaps sometime during the Committee's July 1981 meeting. We also plan to provide the opportunity for the Committee to review and comment on significant results from Task A-45 work at selected intermediate points in the program. On completion of significant milestones, we will provide the Committee with draft reports for their review and comment.

Successful accomplishment of the Task A-45 program will require a coordinated effort within the staff and with the ACRS. The Task Manager for each Unresolved Safety Issue is the key focal point within the staff for

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Dr. J. Carson Mark

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technical direction and management of all tasks in the action plan and for coordination of all efforts connected with the issue. Accordingly, close coordination between the Task Manager for A-45 and the ACRS staff and Subcommittee Chairman on Decay Heat Removal Systems is essential and appears to be well under way.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

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