

# NUCLE DYNE

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ENGINEERING CORPORATION

Bill  
RRTF  
6/30/82

PROPOSED RULE PR-Misc Notice  
(47 FR 24044)

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Represented by  
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Consultant

June 28, 1982

Chairman  
Regulatory Reform Task Force  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference is to NRC's invitation to the public to comment on proposals to improve the licensing process. As we review the four proposals developed by your Task Force, as published in the USNRC News Releases of June 1, 1982, we believe there is one very important omission.

In any future licensing program, established by the Task Force, a means should be provided to evaluate the licensability of Safety improvements independent of an application for a construction permit or operating license. The scope of such an evaluation should include, obviously, improvements/changes in existing components/equipments/systems/etc. However, a means should be developed and provided for the evaluation of completely new and unique concepts (total containments and emergency core cooling systems) before application for a construction permit.

For example, the Passive Containment System, as described in the enclosed documents (NEC-6 & -8) is an entirely new LWR containment concept based on passive engineered safety features. It contains a number of innovative features which could be considered separately or as an overall system. This concept, also, includes a completely different ECCS concept.

We would suggest that in setting up any new and/or different licensing process that provision be made for some form of "pre-licensing" approval which could be provided to developers of new concepts before a detailed design was completed. Such a "pre-license" approval could, of course, be given without any commitment that a full construction permit or operating license would necessarily be given simply because of this approval. It would be given only as an expression by the

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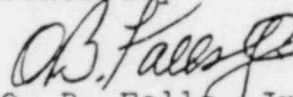
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NRC/ACRS that the concept would, in principle, have the possibility of being licensed as a part of a licensable LWR system. Such a "pre-license approval" would provide an assurance that when such a concept appeared in an application for a construction permit it would not be summarily denied because it was new.

As the total nuclear power industry looks forward to a future revival of purchasing nuclear power plants, it is imperative that consideration be given to innovative concepts that will substantially improve the safety, reliability, maintainability and cost of nuclear power. The NRC/ACRS can make it much more attractive for new concepts to be developed and offered if some form of pre-license approval can be provided; private enterprise would be much more amenable to spending the amounts required to convert the concepts to detailed design if such approval was assured.

Sincerely



O. B. Falls, Jr.  
Consultant

OBF/mr  
Enclosures