

Mr. R. F. McDonald, RP - ARC Bin 854
Southern Company Services Room 518
P. O. 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

Dear Mr. McDonald:

SUBJECT: REVISED SCHEDULE FOR ISSUANCE OF NUREG-1242 CONCERNING THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT FOR PASSIVE PLANT DESIGNS

During the recent Advanced Light Water Reactor (ALWR) Utility Steering Committee meeting in San Francisco, California, you expressed concern about the publication date for the final safety evaluation report (FSER) for the EPRI passive plant design. We believe that the release of the advance FSER in the fall of 1993, and its subsequent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) were of major benefit to EPRI and the industry. However, direction from the Commission in the Staff Requirements Memorandum related to SECY-93-087, "Policy, Technical, and Licensing Issues Pertaining to Evolutionary and Advanced Light-Water Reactor (ALWR) Design," consultation with the ACRS, as well as the changes generated by your letter dated October 19, 1993, have altered the advance FSER released earlier.

If we were to publish the FSER now, the preliminary/incomplete status of the policy issues associated with the regulatory treatment of non-safety systems (RTNSS) and the new source term would result in FSER open items requiring further review and publication of a supplemental FSER.

As you are aware, the staff provided the draft Commission paper on the new source term to the Commission on February 10, 1994. Although this paper will not be finalized for some time, we intend to use the staff positions that were enclosed as the technical basis for our review of the EPRI requirements.

The staff is nearing final completion of the RTNSS Commission paper. I believe that issuance of the FSER should be delayed until the Commission paper on RTNSS is finalized, and the staff has ACRS views on the new source term. This is expected during April 1994, and would result in an early summer publication of the FSER.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL
William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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