

Mr. Edson C. Brolin
Director, Office of Civilian
Reactor Development - NE 40
Department of Energy
Mail Stop 5A-115/FORS
Washington, D.C. 20585

March 9, 1994

Dear Mr. Brolin:

SUBJECT: SAFETY REVIEW OF THE ADVANCED NEUTRON SOURCE BY THE NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)

The NRC staff has met on two occasions with representatives of DOE and its contractors to discuss the design and potential NRC review of the advanced neutron source (ANS). As a result of those meetings and subsequent discussions, the NRC staff anticipates a request from DOE or its contractor to perform a safety review of the proposed ANS.

Although the NRC has not budgeted resources for a detailed review of the ANS, the NRC staff has the technical capability, and would respond favorably to a DOE request to perform a safety review. We envision that this review would be similar in scope and depth to our review of the Fast Flux Test Facility that was conducted for ERDA/DOE in the 1970s. The specific details regarding the proposed scope of the review, the type of documentation desired, the schedule, and the funding details will be established by a memorandum of understanding between our respective agencies. We would expect reimbursement of our costs for the review to prevent NPC licensees from bearing the costs through our fees.

In order to support adequate resource and budget planning, the staff would benefit from an understanding of DOE's current plans for developing the ANS design and the anticipated scope of NRC review. After we receive DOE's plans, the staff will project the duration and cost of the NRC review.

Design review of the ANS will be conducted by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The NRR project manager, James H. Wilson, can be contacted at (301) 504-1108.

The staff looks forward to working with DOE on the ANS project.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor,
Executive Director
for Operations

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