



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 30, 1994

Project Nos. 672 and 674
Docket Nos. 52-001, 52-002, 52-003, 52-004

Dr. Gail Marcus
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PDAR-11D23
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Marcus:

Enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 requires that the Office of Nuclear Energy submit to Congress a 5-Year Program Plan to meet the Act's requirements. The Act requires that comments on the draft plan be solicited from appropriate representatives of industry, institutions of higher education, Federal agencies, national laboratories, and professional and technical societies. Enclosed for your review and comment is the "Draft 5-Year Plan for Advanced Reactor Activities under the Energy Policy Act of 1992," including schedules, milestones, and funding plans. The enclosed plan is based on the Administration's submittal for the fiscal year 1995 budget. Congress is expected to debate the proposed budget submission later this year.

We have informed Congress that we will submit the plan by May 15, 1994. In order to support this schedule, it is requested that U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission review the enclosed draft plan and return comments to us by mail or fax (301-903-5993) before April 11, 1994.

We will be in touch by telephone once you have received and reviewed this package to gauge your interest in attending a possible briefing (in Washington, DC) on the 5-Year Program Plan for Advanced Reactor Activities under the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

Your cooperation and prompt response to this request would be greatly appreciated. A list of those organizations from which comments are being solicited and a copy of section 2122 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 are also attached for your information.

Sincerely,

for Daniel A. Dreyfus
Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosure

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H. R. 776—307

SEC. 2122. PROGRAM, GOALS, AND PLAN.

(a) PROGRAM DIRECTION.—The Secretary shall conduct a program to encourage the deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies that to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) are cost effective in comparison to alternative sources of commercial electric power of comparable availability and reliability, taking into consideration life cycle environmental costs;

(2) facilitate the design, licensing, construction, and operation of a nuclear powerplant using a standardized design;

(3) exhibit enhanced safety features; and

(4) incorporate features that advance the objectives of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978.

(b) PROGRAM GOALS.—The goals of the program established under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) for the near-term—

(A) to facilitate the completion, by September 30, 1996, for certification by the Commission, of standardized advanced light water reactor technology designs that the Secretary determines have the characteristics described in subsection (a) (1) through (4);

(B) to facilitate the completion of submissions, by September 30, 1996, for preliminary design approvals by the Commission of standardized designs for the modular high-temperature gas-cooled reactor technology and the liquid metal reactor technology; and

(C) to evaluate by September 30, 1996, actinide burn technology to determine if it can reduce the volume of long-lived fission byproducts;

(2) for the mid-term—

(A) to facilitate increased efficiency of enhanced safety, advanced light water reactors to produce electric power at the lowest cost to the customer;

(B) to develop advanced reactor concepts that are passively safe and environmentally acceptable; and

(C) to complete necessary research and development on high-temperature gas-cooled reactor technology and liquid metal reactor technology to support the selection, by September 30, 1998, of one or both of those technologies as appropriate for prototype demonstration; and

(3) for the long-term, to complete research and development and demonstration to support the design of advanced reactor technologies capable of providing electric power to a utility grid as soon as practicable but no later than the year 2010.

(c) PROGRAM PLAN.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Congress a 5-year program plan to guide the activities under this section. The program plan shall include schedule milestones, Federal funding requirements, and non-Federal cost sharing requirements. In preparing the program plan, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(1) the need for, and the potential for future adoption by electric utilities or other entities of, advanced nuclear reactor technologies that are available, under development, or have the potential for being developed, for the generation of energy from nuclear fission;

(2) how the Federal Government, acting through the Secretary, can be effective in ensuring the availability of such technologies when they are needed;

(3) how the Federal Government can most effectively cooperate with the private sector in the accomplishment of the goals set forth in subsection (b); and

(4) potential alternative funding sources for carrying out this section.

In preparing the program plan, the Secretary shall consult with appropriate representatives of industry, institutions of higher education, Federal agencies, including national laboratories, and professional and technical societies. The Secretary shall update the program plan annually and submit such update to Congress. Each such update shall describe any activities that are behind schedule, any funding shortfalls, and any other circumstances that might affect the ability of the Secretary to meet the goals set forth in subsection (b).

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