

November 3, 1955

Mr. K. E. Fields
General Manager
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: UCLA Medical Research Reactor
(Reports MRR-1467 and 1468)

Dear Mr. Fields:

At its Fifteenth Meeting the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered further the proposal of the University of California at Los Angeles for the construction and operation of a medical research reactor as described in the referenced reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Committee is of the opinion that this reactor can be constructed and operated at this location within the limits of reasonable hazards, if the following points can be satisfied, and with the proviso contained in recommendation 2.
 - (a) The secondary containment system should be tested at a pressure as great as could be developed from the maximum possible release of chemical and nuclear energy in the worst credible accident.
 - (b) A means for testing tightness of the secondary enclosure should be developed and specified together with a recommended schedule for testing.
 - (c) In view of the experience with corrosion in other water boilers, some means of inspecting the primary reactor vessel for corrosion should be worked out and specified.
 - (d) Some automatic means of closing the exit doors should be provided and specified.
 - (e) The beam hole pointing towards an access area and the animal preparation room should be adequately shielded.

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2. The transient tests which are being carried out on homogeneous reactors, known as HEMB, should be evaluated as the UCLA should be judged to be safe in accordance with this information before operation.

Sincerely yours,

O. Rogers McCullough
Chairman
Advisory Committee on
Nuclear Safeguards

cc: C. A. Nelson, INEPCO.
H. L. Price, DCA