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EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

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July 5, 1983

Mr. E. Gunter Arndt
Mechanical/Structural Engineering Branch
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Arndt:

Pursuant our telephone conversation on June 28, 1983 and other developments, please, answer the following questions:

1. In your correspondence and later, during our conference with Mr. Shomaker on 5/5/83, you stated that the Ref. 1 is no longer a basis for licensing nuclear containments regarding leakage rates.

QUESTION 1. (a) What are the current criteria for licensing? Provide references.
(b) Are organizations involved in the ILR testing informed about these criteria?

2. I received alarming signals that several ILRT's performed in May-July 1983 were based on the Ref. 1.

QUESTION 2. Have you informed organizations involved in the ILRT about:
(a) errors in the Ref. 1 ?; (b) possibility of heavy financial losses due to a necessity of additional testing?

3. On April 7, 1983, we sent you, on your request, the Ref. 2 for unrestricted use. Initially it was mistakenly labeled as a proprietary material and its non-proprietary status was fully clarified during the above conference. My authorization (which was not, in fact, needed) was given for sending it out for information and response. Urgency of the matter is unquestionable since the Ref. 2 provides scientific proof that abnormally high leakage rates may not be detected when the Ref. 1 is used for testing. I obtained evidence that on the contrary to your commitments, the Ref. 2 has not yet been sent out.

REQUEST: (a) I kindly request that the Ref. 2 be immediately sent out to: (1) all the recipients of the topical reports of the ORNL on your mailing list, and (2) all organizations on your mailing list which are involved in the ILR testing; (b) Please, send me the list of addressees with the mailing dates.

In view of importance of the matter and unjustified delays in the past, I kindly request that you give a due priority to these questions and inform me on your actions immediately.

Sincerely, *Z. Reytblatt*
Z. Reytblatt

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REFERENCES

1. "Containment System Leakage Testing Requirements", ANSI/ANS-56.8-1981
2. "Critique of "Containment System Leakage Test Requirements"",
Z. Reytblatt, Copyright TXu 125-957, 1983

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