



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 19, 2020

Mr. Matthew W. Sunseri, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, I am responding to your letter to Chairman Svinicki dated April 13, 2020, providing the "Biennial Review and Evaluation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Research Program." We value the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS or the Committee) review and evaluation and the resulting Committee perspectives and insights.

The ACRS review provided several recommendations to enhance the NRC safety research mission. The staff agrees with these recommendations and is implementing them within existing programs and processes. More specifically, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research supports the recommendations to enhance engagement with the program offices on the prioritization of research activities, emphasize future-focused research in support of advanced technology and agency transformation, support strategies that leverage the office's domestic and international partnerships and continue to contribute to agency readiness to review advanced reactor applications.

The staff looks forward to continued interactions with the ACRS and future reviews of our research program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Raymond V. Furstenau, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: Chairman Svinicki
Commissioner Baran
Commissioner Caputo
Commissioner Wright
SECY

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