



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 24, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: David L. Morrison, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: John T. Larkins, *John T. Larkins* Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

SUBJECT: ACRS AND NSRRC COORDINATION

Thomas Kress, ACRS Chairman, Robert Seale, ACRS Vice Chairman, and I have discussed the September 10, 1996 SRM and your draft response to COMSECY 96-028. We believe that the Commission would benefit from a closer working relationship between the ACRS (and where applicable the ACNW) and the NSRRC. The advantages would be better direct communication between the Committees, elimination of unnecessary duplication of Committee effort, and more efficient use of Committee and NRC staff resources. We believe the following criteria/protocols would help to accomplish this:

- 1) The subject for joint meetings between ACRS and NSRRC should be the review of research topics as this is where ACRS and NSRRC have joint responsibilities.
- 2) Joint meetings should be held when such meetings will enhance the ACRS and NSRRC advice and/or provide for the more efficient use of Committee and NRC staff resources.
- 3) The ACRS and the NSRRC should jointly develop the agenda and arrangements for such meetings.
- 4) The ACRS and the NSRRC should continue to issue separate reports.
- 5) The mechanisms currently in place to provide for a timely exchange of information, agendas, and Committee reports should be continued and refined as necessary.

These criteria would not preclude NSRRC or ACRS members from participating in a Subcommittee or full Committee meeting of either Committee when they find it useful. We believe that we do need to agree on when a joint meeting is appropriate and on the protocols for participation. ACRS and NSRRC members should be encouraged to attend NSRRC or ACRS meetings as observers where appropriate.

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NSRRC participation in the PRA Subcommittee meeting on Oct. 30- Nov 1 is welcome. However, we prefer not to characterize this as a joint meeting until the two Committees have agreed on the above criteria and protocols. Other potential areas for NSRRC and ACRS interaction include human reliability, severe accident research, thermal hydraulic code development, digital instrumentation and control, high burnup fuel issues, and plant aging. The thermal hydraulic code development effort is particularly attractive to us. It may also be beneficial to have joint meetings to review the entire NRC research program and priorities and to discuss international cooperative research.

I suggest that we meet to discuss this proposal. You can reach me or Dr. Savio on 415-7360.

cc: T. Kress, ACRS
R. L. Seale, ACRS
J. Cortez, RES