



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

ACKSR-1286

February 17, 1988

The Honorable George H. W. Bush
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 29 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Section 5 of Public Law 95-209, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has reported each year to the Congress on the Safety Research Program of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In our December 18, 1986 letter to you, we proposed to provide more focused reports devoted to fewer significant research issues that we believe merit Congressional attention rather than one all-inclusive annual report. The Commission has agreed with our suggestion, and NRC Chairman Zech has submitted a legislative proposal in the form of a draft bill on December 2, 1987 to amend Section 29 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to accomplish this.

In our December 18th letter we noted also that, in the event that a year passes without the appearance of any significant research issue, we would report that fact to you in writing. Although in the past year we have not encountered any major research issues that we believe merit Congressional attention, we have provided comments and recommendations to the Commission and the NRC Staff on several NRC research efforts. Copies of these reports are attached for your information and use.

We are in the process of reviewing several elements of the NRC research program such as Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, Severe Accident Management, Plant Aging, Containment Performance, and Seismic Design Margins. Also, we expect to review proposed research associated with Human Factors, Equipment Qualification, and Fire Protection. Upon completion of our reviews, we will provide reports to you on those specific items found to be sufficiently substantive to warrant Congressional attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W Kerr", is written over the typed name.

William Kerr
Chairman

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Attachments:

1. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Report on Proposed Research to Reduce Source Term Uncertainty, dated May 13, 1987.
2. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Victor Stello, Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, Subject: ACRS Comments on the Embrittlement of Structural Steel, dated July 15, 1987.
3. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Victor Stello, Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, Subject: ACRS Comments on International Cooperation on Research Related to Radiation Protection, dated July 15, 1987.
4. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Draft NUREG-1150, "Reactor Risk Reference Document," dated July 15, 1987.
5. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Research into Continuous Containment Leakage Monitoring, dated July 16, 1987.
6. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: Preliminary ACRS Views on Fire Risk Research Scoping Study, dated August 10, 1987.
7. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Code Scaling, Applicability and Uncertainty Methodology for Determination of Uncertainty Associated With the Use of Realistic ECCS Evaluation Models, dated September 16, 1987.
8. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Radioactive Waste Management Research and Other Activities, dated November 10, 1987.
9. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Victor Stello, Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, Subject: ACRS Comments on Memorandum from Victor Stello, Jr., EDO, Dated October 7, 1987 Regarding the Embrittlement of Structural Steel, dated December 8, 1987.
10. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Development of a Method to Establish Priorities for Research Activities, dated February 16, 1988.
11. Letter from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Lando W. Zech, U.S. NRC Chairman, Subject: ACRS Comments on Selected FY 1988 NRC Radioactive Waste Management Research Programs, dated February 17, 1988.