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

May 29, 1997

Dr. Robert L. Seale, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF THE MULTIPLE SYSTEM RESPONSES PROGRAM ISSUES

Dear Dr. Seale:

I am writing you in response to the June 3, 1996, letter from Dr. T. S. Kress on the above subject wherein the ACRS stated that the staff failed to put in place a mechanism to ensure reactor licensees had evaluated and resolved the Multiple System Responses Program (MSRP) issues in an adequate manner. The ACRS also stated that additional staff review was warranted to determine the adequacy of the resolution of these issues.

The staff briefed the ACRS on March 11, 1994, on a draft letter report, "Evaluation of Potential Safety Issues Resulting from the Multiple System Responses Program," which elaborated on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory report NUREG/CR-5420, "Multiple System Responses Program - Identification of Concerns Related to a Number of Specific Regulatory Issues"; a revised letter report was later forwarded to the ACRS on June 3, 1994. The staff's final report, which constituted a prioritization of the 21 MSRP issues, was forwarded to the ACRS on August 2, 1995, and contained the following conclusions:

- Eight issues (Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12) were being addressed on an ongoing basis through activities such as generic safety issues, task action plans, inspection initiatives, new American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards, and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) initiatives.
- One issue (No. 4) was dropped due to negligible risk reduction potential.
- One issue (No. 9) was dropped because the safety concern was covered in existing regulation (10 CFR 50.49).
- Nine issues (Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21) were to be considered in the Individual Plant Examination of External Events (IPEEE) reviews.
- Three issues (Nos. 1, 2, and 14) were to be considered in the Individual Plant Examination (IPE) reviews. (Issue No. 14 impacts both the IPE and IPEEE Programs.)

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RES staff participated in a discussion of the above findings with the ACRS on December 7, 1995, and the prioritization of the 21 MSRP issues was later published as Issue 172 in NUREG-0933, "A Prioritization of Generic Safety Issues."

Guidance for the review of IPEEE submittals was issued in May 1995 and covers the use of various analytical methods, e.g., probabilistic risk assessment, Seismic Margins Methodology, and Fire-Induced Vulnerability Evaluation Methodology. A supplement to this guidance was issued in March 1997 and explicitly addresses all affected generic safety issues, including the nine MSRP issues delineated above.

Separate guidance was not developed for the review of the three MSRP items in IPE submittals and, at the December 7, 1995 ACRS meeting, the staff committed to the preparation of a summary report on its findings after the review of all IPEs. This report will include the degree to which licensees addressed the three MSRP issues in their IPEs: issues not adequately addressed will require further evaluation. Progress on the MSRP issues (Issue 172) relative to the IPE on IPEEE is being tracked in the Generic Issue Management Control System (GIMCS), copies of which are forwarded to the ACRS quarterly. The other eight issues are discussed in NUREG-0933, "A Prioritization of Generic Safety Issues," which is updated twice a year. The staff would be pleased to meet with the ACRS to discuss the matter further, should you so desire.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

L. J. Callan

L. Joseph Callan  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
SECY

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\* See Previous Concurrence

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