

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

JUN 14 1966

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Subject: PERIODIC COMPREHENSIVE (TEN YEAR) REVIEW OF OPERATING
POWER REACTORS

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards recommends that the Atomic Energy Commission institute a program of periodic comprehensive reviews of operating licensed power reactors by the Regulatory Staff. Such comprehensive reviews would supplement the present annual operating reports, Compliance inspections, and DRL reviews in connection with proposed changes, and would result in reports to the Commission by the Regulatory Staff stating what limitations, if any, are being applied to ensure continued safe operation of each reactor.

The form of the reports to be submitted by reactor operators for these comprehensive reviews might well be outlined in a suitable guide prepared by the Staff. Such reports should contain summaries of operating history with special emphasis on significant problems. Information should be submitted to support the predictions of service lives of components whose failure could lead to a serious accident. These reports would also constitute a valuable source of information for the Regulatory Staff in its continuing effort to apply operating experience to the review of new applications.

The Committee suggests periods of about ten years for the comprehensive reviews. The period should be sufficiently flexible that the review can include recent results of inspections and tests made infrequently, such as containment leakage rate, pressure vessel inspection, and measurements of nil ductility transition temperature.

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The Committee believes that each reactor operator should be responsible for the maintenance of appropriate records of the design, fabrication, inspection, installation, testing, and operating history of important plant components. The information should be adequate for the comprehensive reviews by the Regulatory Staff. Careful studies should be started by the Regulatory Staff to ascertain what information can be expected to be significant for future safety assessment. Surveillance and testing programs, where appropriate, should be planned to allow for possible use of improved knowledge developed during the life of the plant.

For reactors already in operation or under construction, the Committee recommends that the Regulatory Staff begin now to plan for the periodic comprehensive reviews.

The Committee believes that a periodic comprehensive review program of the sort proposed would constitute a workable mechanism for providing additional assurance that each reactor can continue to be operated without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
DAVID OKRENT

David Okrent
Chairman

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