



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001**

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT – 677th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, AUGUST 20-21, 2020**

Dear Chairman Svinicki:

During its 677th meeting, August 20-21, 2020, which was conducted virtually due to the Agency's expanded telework status resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed several matters. This meeting was convened as a special meeting for the purpose of discussing lessons learned from design certification application (DCA) reviews including the NuScale review. The Committee had productive discussions about observations and lessons learned from ACRS licensing review for future applications and made significant progress on the letter report which will be finalized during the September 2020 Full Committee meeting. The ACRS completed the following correspondence:

MEMORANDA

Memoranda to Margaret M. Doane, Executive Director for Operations (EDO), NRC, from Scott W. Moore, Executive Director, ACRS:

- Documentation of Receipt of Applicable Official NRC Notices to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards for August 2020, dated September 15, 2020, ADAMS Accession No. ML20240A197
- Regulatory Guides, dated September 15, 2020, ADAMS Accession No. ML20240A194

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES

1. Discussions of observations and lessons learned from ACRS licensing review for future applications

The Committee Members discussed various aspects of previous reviews of DCAs including the recent review of the NuScale design and provided recommendations to the Commission and NRC staff as part of ACRS' continuing effort to become more effective and assist the agency in its transformation initiatives. The Committee plans to finalize this letter report in the September 2020 Full Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On August 20, 2020, Sarah Fields from the public interest group Uranium Watch expressed her opinion that the Committee did not clearly explain its concerns about boron redistribution and possible return to power that could damage the reactor core. She stated that it was difficult for a member of the public to understand the Committee's safety concern. (Note: The ACRS took heed of this comment during a recent retreat and has plans to improve their letter quality).

SCHEDULED TOPICS FOR THE 678th ACRS MEETING

The following topics are on the agenda for the 678th ACRS meeting scheduled for September 9-12, 2020:

- Observations and lessons learned from ACRS licensing review for future applications
- Staff White Paper on Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 53 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding licensing of advanced technology reactors,
- GEH Topical Report NEDC-3391P, "BWRX-300 Reactor Vessel and Overpressure Protection,"
- Topical Report ANP-10337, Supplement 1, "Deformer Spacer Grid Element," and
- Future-focused research projects

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Sunseri,
Chairman

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