

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 12, 1958

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss
Chairman, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY RESEARCH REACTOR (ORR)

Dear Mr. Strauss:

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory Research Reactor was reviewed at the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, May 9, 1958, at the request of the Commission. The Committee, before it received statutory status, had previously submitted its recommendations on location and design of this reactor 1/ to the Commission.

For the present review, the Committee had access to information referenced below, 2/-9/ inclusive. In addition, representatives from Oak Ridge presented amplifying comments orally.

The physics and engineering of reactors of the Oak Ridge Research type are well understood. Considerable operating experience has been accumulated. Moreover, the Oak Ridge staff has demonstrated its ability to operate research and testing reactors.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards concludes, in agreement with its initial recommendation and with the Hazards Evaluation Branch, that there is reasonable assurance that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Research Reactor can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. Rogers McCullough

C. Rogers McCullough
Chairman
Advisory Committee on
Reactor Safeguards

Herzel Plaine

cc: K. E. Fields, GM
H.L. Price, DL&R
ACRS Members and RHG

References - See Page 2

- 1/ ACRS Fifth Meeting, April 21-23, 1954; Eighth Meeting, October 21-24, 1954; Tenth Meeting, February 3-4, 1955; Eleventh Meeting, March 3, 1955. See Letter C. Rogers McCullough to C. K. Beck, January 29, 1958.
- 2/ The Oak Ridge National Laboratory Research Reactor Safeguard Report, by F. T. Binford, T. E. Cole, and J. P. Gill, October 7, 1954; Vol. I, ORNL 1794; Vol. II, TID-10083.
- 3/ A Method of Disposal of Volatile Fission Products from an Accident in the Oak Ridge Research Reactor, by F. T. Binford and T. H. J. Burnett, August 2, 1956, ORNL-2086.
- 4/ The Oak Ridge National Laboratory Research Reactor (ORR), A General Description, by T. E. Cole, J. P. Gill, January 17, 1958, ORNL-2240.
- 5/ Letter J. A. Swartout to H. M. Roth, ORR Test Operation, February 28, 1958, and attachments.
- 6/ Dispersion of Airborne Activity from a Cold Cloud Accident to the ORR, by U. S. Weather Bureau Office, Oak Ridge, Tenn., April 9, 1958.
- 7/ Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing & Regulation on Oak Ridge Research Reactor (ORR), April 15, 1958.
- 8/ Meteorological Aspects of the Oak Ridge Research Reactor, by Special Projects Section, Office of Meteorological Research, Weather Bureau (Donald H. Pack), April 22, 1958. (Presented at the ACRS Meeting.)
- 9/ Comments on ORR by John F. Newell, April 25, 1958 (presented at the ACRS Meeting).