

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

May 18, 1959

Honorable John A. McCone
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: LOCKHEED RADIATION EFFECTS REACTOR (RER)

Dear Mr. McCone:

At the request of the Atomic Energy Commission the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reconsidered the operation of the Lockheed Radiation Effects Reactor. The specific question asked was whether this reactor can be operated for a period of 100 hours at power levels not to exceed 10 Mw without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

The Committee has been informed that this operation is divorced from consideration of any experimental programs to be eventually developed in connection with the reactor, since these are not presently proposed by the Air Force.

While the Committee does not favor the operation of any reactor in an unshielded condition it is of the opinion that the limited duration of the proposed test operation does not pose any significant hazard to the health and safety of the public provided adequate surveillance is exercised over local radiation levels.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. Rogers McCullough

C. Rogers McCullough
Chairman

May 18, 1959

References:

1. LAC 147 - Radiation Effects Reactor Safeguards (Hazards Summary Report, 15 January 1958).
2. LAC-RER Maximum Credible Accident Calculation Method (2 pages - undated) by Georgia Division, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.
3. Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation on Lockheed Radiation Effects Reactor (RER), July 25, 1958.
4. LAC-RER letter report of April 30, 1959 (Georgia Division) Subject: Additional Information on Safeguards Aspects of the Radiation Effects Reactor.
5. Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation on Lockheed Radiation Effects Reactor, May 12, 1959.
6. Letter from Dr. C. K. Beck, HEB, to Dr. McCullough, ACRS dated May 15, 1959.