

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

December 10, 1960

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

Subject: REPORT ON RADIATION EFFECTS REACTOR (RER)

Dear Mr. McCone:

At its thirtieth meeting on December 7-10, 1960, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered the Lockheed Radiation Effects Reactor located near Dawsonville, Georgia. The Committee had available to it the documents referenced below as well as discussion with representatives of the AEC staff, U. S. Air Force, and the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. The Committee has commented to you regarding operation of this reactor in letters dated August 5, 1958, May 18, 1959, and July 25, 1959.

At this meeting, the Committee considered the limited operating performance of this facility over the past seventeen months. A revised contractual arrangement was described within which Lockheed will lease RER from the Air Force, rather than operating it under an Air Force R&D contract. Military requirements have diminished to the point where the contractor proposes to operate the reactor commercially, providing bulk radiation testing for other governmental organizations and private manufacturers. The Lockheed Corporation has applied for a facility license and will obtain AEC licenses for its operators as a result of this change.

In its letter of July 25, 1959 to you the Committee expressed concern regarding the instrumentation and lack of operator experience at this facility. These areas appear now to have been satisfactorily resolved.

Honorable John A. McCone

-2-

December 10, 1960

Previously this reactor was considered under section 91b as a facility to be operated for military purposes. At the present time the Committee is being asked to consider this reactor for a civilian license so that it can be operated for commercial purposes. It is the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards that continued operation of this reactor can only be justified for work essential to the national defense.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd/LESLIE SILVERMAN

Leslie Silverman
Chairman

cc: A. R. Luedecke, GM
W. F. Finan, AGMRS
H. L. Price, Dir., DL&R

References:

- ✓ 1. NR 103 Radiation Effects Reactor High Power Test Program, dated Sept. 1960.
- ✓ 2. Application for Facility License with enclosures a, b, and e thru n, dated Sept. 20, 1960.
- ✓ 3. Addendum to Application for Facility License with enclosures (a) thru (i), dated November 25, 1960.