

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

November 5, 1960

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

Subject: REPORT ON ELK RIVER REACTOR - RCPA

Dear Mr. McCone:

At its twenty-ninth meeting on November 3-5, 1960, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed the proposed operation of the Elk River reactor. The Elk River Subcommittee had met with the applicant and AEC staff on September 9, 1960 and October 20, 1960. The Committee also had available the reports listed below, and discussion with the applicant, the AEC staff and their consultants at the meeting.

From previous reviews all safety matters pertinent to operation had been resolved except: the composition of the start-up crew; radiation monitors in areas outside the containment; personnel entrance to the containment; operating instructions; pressure coefficient; control rod operation; reactivity effect of fuel element motion; and repair of reactor pressure vessel nozzles.

As a result of this review, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards concludes that all issues have been satisfactorily resolved. The Committee believes that this reactor can be operated without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Leslie Silverman

Leslie Silverman
Chairman

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

References:

1. Final Hazards Report for the RCPA Elk River Reactor, dated July 8, 1960
2. Control-Rod Drop Tests for the RCPA Elk River Reactor, dated May 20, 1960
3. Nuclear Startup Program for RCPA, dated July 8, 1960
4. Operations Volume I - Operating Procedures for RCPA, dated July 8, 1960
5. The Chicago Operations Office Organization and Procedures for Technical and Administrative Control of the Elk River Reactor Project, undated, received September 19, 1960
6. RCPA Integrated Nuclear Plant Organizational Manual, dated September 15, 1960
7. Fuel Element Report - Elk River Reactor, dated September 16, 1960
8. Use of 2% Boron - Type 304 Stainless Steel for the Poison Section of the Elk River Reactor Control Rod, dated September 6, 1960
9. Allis Chalmers Organization for Design, Preoperational and Nuclear Testing of the Elk River Reactor, dated September 16, 1960
10. Preoperation Testing Manual for the RCPA Elk River Reactor, dated April 4, 1960
11. Radiological Physics Safety Manual for RCPA Elk River Reactor, dated July 22, 1960
12. Summary of Latest Design Changes and Answers to ACRS Questions for the RCPA Elk River Reactor, undated, received October 13, 1960
13. Elk River Reactor Weld Repair - 16" Nozzle, dated September 20, 1960
14. Technical Specifications for the Elk River Reactor, undated, received September 22, 1960
15. Drawing No. 12D-02000
16. Drawing No. 12D-04000