



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 16, 1983

Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS REPORT ON THE PROPOSED FINAL RULES ON IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (10 CFR 50.72) AND LICENSEE EVENT REPORTING (10 CFR 50.73)

During its 277th meeting, May 12-14, 1983, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered the proposed final rules on Immediate Notification Requirements and the Licensee Event Reporting (LER) system. A Subcommittee meeting to discuss the rules was held in Washington, D.C. on April 6, 1983. The Committee reported on the LER rulemaking prior to publication of this rule for public comment in a report to Commissioner Ahearne on March 9, 1982.

The proposed rule on Immediate Notification Requirements will reduce the number of reports having little or no safety significance. The rule will also allow somewhat more flexibility in reporting times and reflects improved coordination with other reporting requirements in the regulations.

The proposed LER rule also reduces the number of reports required and improves coordination with other reporting requirements. Reporting of events that have the potential for safety significance will be more complete and useful to analysts of operational data.

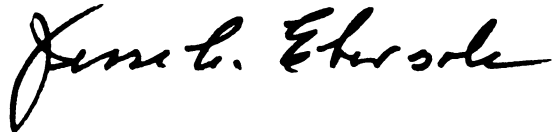
We believe that implementation of these rules would represent a substantial improvement over current reporting requirements.

As a complement to the new LER system, it is essential to have an effective Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System (NPRDS) to collect information related to the failure rates of safety-related components used in nuclear power plants. Without an effective NPRDS, the overall reporting scheme of the industry would be seriously deficient. NPRDS is being administered by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and the NRC Staff is periodically examining its effectiveness. If, after a reasonable amount of time for implementation, the NRC Staff determines that NPRDS is not acceptable, remedial measures such as additional rulemaking to codify the NPRDS would be appropriate. We believe that the effort needed to make NPRDS a success represents a challenge to the industry. We wish to be kept informed of the progress toward implementing NPRDS and informed by the NRC Staff when both the LER system and NPRDS are working in concert.

May 16, 1983

Mr. Carlyle Michelson did not participate in Committee consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jesse C. Ebersole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jesse C. Ebersole
Acting Chairman

References:

1. Memo from R. DeYoung, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, NRC, to R. Fraley, ACRS, dated March 25, 1983, Subject: Immediate Notification Requirements Rulemaking (10 CFR 50.72) [includes proposed Federal Register Notice for the final Immediate Notification rule (50.72)].
2. Memo from C. J. Heltemes, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, NRC, to R. Fraley, ACRS, dated March 21, 1983, Subject: Licensee Event Report (LER) Rulemaking (10 CFR 50.73) [includes proposed Federal Register Notice for the final LER rule (50.73)].
3. Feasibility Study on the Acquisition of Licensee Event Data, dated October 25, 1982, Brookhaven National Laboratory, BNL/NUREG-51609, NUREG/CR-3026.