



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
December 14, 1981

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

SUBJECT: ACRS REVIEW AND REPORTS ON NRC SAFETY RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Dear Dr. Palladino:.

In our letter of October 20, 1981 we expressed our belief "that reviewing the LRRP would not be an effective use of our time unless a more meaningful plan is developed." Although we anticipate significant improvements in the LRRP, it is perhaps too late to use the new LRRP as a basis for our report to Congress on the FY 1983 program since that report is well under way, and we have not yet received the new plan. Nevertheless, we intend to review the plan and, to the extent needed and practicable, provide you and the Commissioners with our comments. It is likely that our comments this year can be based primarily on the reviews we have carried out in preparation for our report to Congress; extensive interaction with the RES Staff should not be necessary. Nevertheless, we will consider ways in which our review of the FY 1984 Safety Research Program can be carried out in order to provide you with timely and useful comments on the LRRP and, at the same time, provide us with the information and insights we need to prepare our report to the Congress.

With regard to a review and report to the Commission in July on the RES budget request, we said in our letter of October 20, 1981 that we will continue to provide comments on funding levels, in detail or in general, and on specific portions of the program. In doing so, however, we would expect to limit our interaction with the RES Staff; this would be possible if there is an easily identifiable relation between their budget request and the needs and programs described in the LRRP. Moreover, we would not intend to elaborate on the bases for our recommendations if it is possible to relate them to comments made previously in connection with the LRRP and our report to Congress.

We will continue to make both general and specific recommendations to the Commission and to the RES Staff. It would be helpful to us in our continuing review of the Safety Research Program, if RES would respond in writing to each recommendation, general or specific, made in our report to the Congress.

In summary, we believe that procedures can be developed to provide the information requested in your letter of December 10, 1981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Carson Mark".

J. Carson Mark
Chairman