



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

April 20, 1979

Honorable Victor Gilinsky  
Acting Chairman  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Gilinsky:

This letter is in response to yours of April 18, 1979 which requested that the ACRS notify the Commissioners immediately if we believe any of our oral recommendations of April 17 should be acted upon before our next regularly scheduled meeting at which we could prepare a formal letter. The Committee discussed this topic by conference telephone call on April 19 and offers the following comments.

All of the recommendations made by the ACRS in its meeting with the Commissioners on April 17, 1979, are generic in nature and apply to all PWRs. None were intended to require immediate changes in operating procedures or plant modifications of operating PWRs. Such changes should be made only after study of their effects on overall safety. Such studies should be made by the licensees and their suppliers or consultants and by the NRC Staff. The Committee believes that these studies should be begun in the near future on a time scale that will not divert the NRC Staff or the industry representatives from their tasks relating to the cooldown of Three Mile Island Unit 2. However, the Committee believes that it would be possible and desirable to initiate immediately a survey of operating procedures for achieving natural circulation, including the case when offsite power is lost, and the role of the pressurizer heaters in such procedures.

At its meeting on April 16 and 17, 1979, the Committee discussed with the NRC Staff the matter of natural circulation for the Three Mile Island Unit 2 plant. The Committee believes that this matter is receiving careful attention by the NRC Staff and the licensee.

Honorable Victor Gilinsky

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April 20, 1979

The Committee's own recommendations to the Commission on April 17 were not intended to apply to Three Mile Island Unit 2.

We plan to write a further report on these matters at our May 10, 1979 meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max W. Carbon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Max" being the most prominent.

Max W. Carbon  
Chairman