

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

December 10, 1979

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Udall:

This letter is in response to oral requests for ACRS comments on the amendment for supplemental appropriation for the NRC FY-80 Authorization.

The NRC proposed supplemental funds for research are, for the most part, in good agreement with those previously reviewed by the ACRS and discussed in Part 2 of its report NUREG-0603, "Comments on the NRC Safety Research Program Budget." However, the ACRS strongly recommended a supplemental request for \$3.4 million for Research to Improve Reactor Safety, and stated that an FY-80 budget of \$4.4 million was barely sufficient to begin work on the initial program proposed in NUREG-0438. The ACRS continues to support strongly its recommendation for an additional \$3.4 million supplement for Research to Improve Reactor Safety. The ACRS considers it essential that the NRC significantly increase the pace of this program. In its letter of July 18, 1979 to NRC Chairman Hendrie, the ACRS recommended that there be strong programs of research to improve reactor safety both in the NRC and DOE. In that letter, the ACRS stated that a level of \$4.4 million within the NRC for FY-80 would be less funding than desirable.

If an additional \$3.4 million cannot be added to the supplemental FY-80 budget for the NRC, the ACRS recommends that money be reprogrammed from other areas to provide the recommended funding for Research to Improve Reactor Safety.

The ACRS also wishes to note that it places considerable importance on its recommendations for new directions in research as made in NUREG-0603. The ACRS recommends that the NRC be given sufficient reprogramming authority to address these ACRS recommendations vigorously in FY-80.

Sincerely,



Max W. Carbon
Chairman