

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 7, 1960

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

Subject: REPORT ON NASA PLUM BROOK FACILITY

Dear Mr. McCone:

At its twenty-ninth meeting on November 3-5, 1960, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered Amendment IV to the NASA application for an operating license for the testing reactor at Plum Brook. Results of AEC staff studies were discussed.

The amendment proposes operation below 100 KW thermal prior to completion of some portions of the facility. This operation is for calibration of controls and checking projected performance. In-pile facilities requiring not more than 1% excess reactivity will also be checked. It is understood that the containment will have been completed and inspected, and will be capable of prompt manual closure in case of an accident.

The Committee suggests that the overpower scram be reset at just above the power limit requested and that one or more temporary instruments be inserted into the core so that water temperature can be observed during the time when the normal instrumentation is not useful and normal coolant flow is not available.

The Committee believes that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed operations can be carried out without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Leslie Silverman
Chairman

Reference:

Amendment IV to the Application for NASA Plum Brook Reactor, dated
October 17, 1960

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