



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

April 18, 1978

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: REPORT ON ACRS ACTIVITIES: DECEMBER 1977 THROUGH APRIL 1978

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

This is a brief report of ACRS activities during the period December 1977 - April 1978. Selected topics in this report will be discussed during the next joint NRC-ACRS meeting.

Review of Operations at "stretch" power

During the August, September, and October 1977 ACRS meetings, the NRC Staff discussed with the Committee their plans for approving stretch power operation at the Calvert Cliffs, Palisades, and Maine Yankee nuclear plants.

On November 9, 1977, the Committee requested additional information regarding the scope and nature of the Staff's reviews in this area in order to develop a mechanism for decisions concerning ACRS involvement in similar future reviews. The Director, ONRR responded by memo dated December 21, 1977. A meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on the Safety of Operating Reactors was held on March 22, 1978, to develop additional information on this subject; the Subcommittee plans to recommend an appropriate course of action to the full Committee.

ACRS Comments Concerning the Establishment of a Statutorily Independent, Quasi-Judicial Board for Evaluation of Reactor Accidents

Congressman Udall has asked for the ACRS' views and recommendations regarding a proposal by Dr. Hal Lewis that a statutory Board, similar to the National Transportation Safety Board, be established to review reactor accidents, determine probable cause, and recommend corrective action to preclude reoccurrence. Thus far, members of the Committee Staff have visited the NTSB to discuss their procedures, a Subcommittee has met to consider the matter, and informal discussions have been held with Dr. Lewis. The Committee will continue to consider its reply, which has been requested by July 31.

New Members

The Commission issued a press release on December 14, 1977 inviting members of the public to nominate individuals to fill two anticipated vacancies on the Committee. In response to the press release, forty-six persons were nominated by various individuals and organizations. The Committee has considered these nominees and is forwarding its recommendations to you separately.

Planned Meetings with FRG Reactor Safety Committee and French Groupe Permanent

The Committee has made preliminary arrangements to meet with members of the Groupe Permanent of France and the FRG Reactor Safety Committee (RSK) in the United States during September and November to discuss matters related to reactor safety.

Members of the Committee have met on previous occasions with representatives of the RSK and the French regulatory organizations including the Groupe Permanent and have found these sessions very informative.

Proposed Use of "Class 9" Accidents in Site Comparisons

The Committee has received a copy of a proposal (SECY 78-137) to use assessment of the relative differences in Class 9 accident risks as an element in the comparison of sites when current criteria call for special consideration of alternative sites in environmental reviews. Since such an approach may have potential impacts on safety reviews, the Committee plans to discuss this matter with the Staff.

ACRS Fellowship Program

Section 6 of the NRC's FY 1978 Authorization Act (PL 95-209) directs the Committee to establish a fellowship program. We have been informed that a request to reprogram funds to initiate the fellowship program has not been approved by the House Committee on Appropriations. The Committee needs guidance regarding compliance with this provision of P.L. 95-209.

Recent Papers by Dr. Ernest Sternglass

Dr. Ernest Sternglass of the University of Pittsburgh forwarded, to an ACRS member, two papers dealing with Strontium-90 levels and changes in cancer mortality near the Haddam Neck and Millstone reactors with a request that the observations reported in these papers be reviewed by the ACRS. These papers were transmitted to the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council BEIR Committee for their use in their current reevaluation of the effects of low-level ionizing radiation.

Dynamic Load Combinations

As a result of discussions during several recent ACRS project reviews, the NRC Staff is preparing a study of the rationale and methods for combining or not combining various dynamic loads such as LOCA and seismic loads which are imposed on important nuclear plant structures, systems, and components.

Future Schedule217th ACRS MEETING  
MAY 4-6, 1978Maine Yankee (Pwr. Increase)

ONRR Safety Evaluation Report	on hand
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	5/2/78
ACRS Report	5/11/78

Indian Point 3 (Pwr. Increase)

ONRR Safety Evaluation Report	on hand*
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	4/24/78
ACRS Report	5/11/78

218th ACRS MEETING  
JUNE 1-3, 1978New England 1 & 2 (CP)

ONRR Safety Evaluation Report	5/1/78
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	5/17-18/78
ACRS Report	6/8/78

Diablo Canyon 1 & 2 (OL)

ONRR Safety Evaluation Report	5/1/78
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	5/24-25/78
ACRS Report	6/8/78

\*A Supplement including revised ECCS calculations is to be provided.

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie

- 4 -

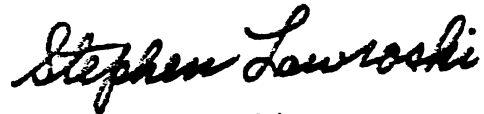
April 18, 1978

Davis Besse 2 & 3 (CP)

ONRR Safety Evaluation Report  
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting  
ACRS Report

5/1/78  
5/18/78  
6/8/78

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Lawroski".

Stephen Lawroski  
Chairman