

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 16, 1976

Dr. G. Paulson  
Assistant Commissioner for Science  
Department of Environmental Protection  
State of New Jersey  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Dr. Paulson:

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has considered your request for comments on the preliminary analysis by Mr. Peter Davis of the probability of a catastrophic accident during the remaining lifetime of the Oyster Creek plant. It is unfortunately not possible for the ACRS to provide a detailed review of this study. We note, however, that Mr. Davis suggests that the incorporation of the automatic recirculation pump trip would lead to a substantial reduction in the probability of a core melt following a failure to scram on an anticipated transient.

The ACRS has been following closely the continuing evaluation of the matter of anticipated transients without scram (ATWS) since the question was raised by this Committee several years ago. The recirculation pump trip feature is included in most, if not all, of the newer boiling water reactors in operation or under construction, and in March 1976 the ACRS recommended that this feature be implemented promptly on all operating BWR's unless analyses have shown that such a trip is not required to mitigate the consequences of ATWS.

We understand that the Jersey Central Power and Light Company has made a commitment to install such a pump trip unless they are able to provide a convincing demonstration that other features incorporated in this plant make this trip unnecessary (see attachments).

Sincerely yours,



Dade W. Moeller  
Chairman

Attachments:

- 1) ACRS letter to L. V. Gossick  
March 12, 1976
- 2) Jersey Central Power & Light  
Company letter October 4, 1976