

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

October 17, 1975

Mr. Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF POSITION REGARDING ANTICIPATED
TRANSIENTS WITHOUT SCRAM (ATWS)

Dear Mr. Gossick:

On September 12, 1975, Mr. Ben C. Rusche, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, transmitted to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards a working paper, dated September 12, 1975, and entitled "Discussion of Alternatives to the Previous Staff Position on Anticipated Transients Without Scram for Construction Permit Applications Made After October 1, 1976."

The working paper primarily discusses various possible new regulatory approaches to "Class A" plants as categorized in WASH-1270, "Anticipated Transients Without Scram for Water-Cooled Power Reactors," dated September, 1973. The Class A category of WASH-1270 requires design changes that would improve significantly the reliability of the shutdown system. This category was to apply to those applications docketed subsequent to October 1, 1976. The Class B category of WASH-1270 applies to reactors docketed from early 1968 to October 1, 1976, and requires that the consequences of a postulated ATWS must be acceptable and that those portions of the reactor shutdown system which might be particularly vulnerable to common mode failures be identified and corrected.

Subsequent to the publication of WASH-1270, the NRC Staff has continued to review the several vendor proposals for meeting Class A and Class B requirements. The NRC Staff has advised the Committee that it now believes it would be appropriate that Class A plants be treated in the same manner as Class B plants.

Lee V. Gossick

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The ACRS has reviewed the working paper and discussed the matter with the NRC Staff during the Committee's 186th Meeting, October 9-11, 1975. The Committee concurs with the NRC recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Kerr", with a stylized, cursive script.

W. Kerr
Chairman

REFERENCES:

1. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Regulatory Staff's Technical Report on Anticipated Transients Without Scram For Water-Cooled Power Reactors, WASH-1270, dated September, 1973.
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff's Working Paper: Discussion of Alternatives To The Previous Staff Position on Anticipated Transients Without Scram for Construction Permit Applications Made After October 1, 1976, dated September 12, 1975.