

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

August 13, 1974

Honorable Dixy Lee Ray
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Subject: RELEASE OF ACRS DOCUMENTS

Dear Dr. Ray:

At its 172nd meeting on August 8-10, 1974, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards decided to make available to the public a large number of documents relating to the activities of the Committee since it became statutory. These documents include all minutes of meetings of the Committee and of its Subcommittees, reports from its consultants, and all those draft documents that had been discussed with groups outside the ACRS, except those precluded by law. It should be noted, however, that prior to the implementation of the FACA, the Committee's minutes were intended only for its internal use and were not necessarily reviewed or certified as correct as now required by that Act.

The ACRS believes that this action will provide the public with a more complete understanding of the nature and scope of its activities than has been provided to date by the limited release of documents in response to specific court orders or to requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents to be released will be subjected to a minimum number of deletions. Those portions of the minutes relating to executive sessions will be released, but names will be deleted in order to preserve the collegial nature of the Committee's deliberations. The Committee continues to believe strongly that free and uninhibited interchange of views and expressions of opinions during its executive sessions are essential to the process of arriving at a consensus judgment. For this reason, the Committee believes that such deliberative sessions must continue to be closed and that minutes released to the public should not reveal the names of the persons associated with a particular opinion or comment.

Honorable Dixy Lee Ray

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These documents will be placed in the AEC Public Document Room as soon as they can be assembled and the proposed deletions made. However, in view of the large number of documents involved, it is expected that this process will extend over a period of several months.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. Stratton
Chairman