

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

October 15, 1965

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Subject: REPORT ON ESADA VALLECITOS EXPERIMENTAL SUPERHEAT
REACTOR (EVESR)

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

At its sixty-seventh meeting, October 7-9, 1965, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered the request by the General Electric Company that the provisional license to operate the ESADA Vallecitos Experimental Superheat Reactor (EVESR) be converted to a ten year license. The Committee had the benefit of discussion with representatives of the General Electric Company and the AEC Regulatory Staff, and of the documents listed below. The ACRS has reported on this reactor previously in its letters of May 20, 1961, April 18, 1963, and October 15, 1964. The last of these letters discussed operation under Change No. 9 at power levels up to 17 MW(t), including a 100° F increase in maximum allowable fuel clad temperature and a 44% increase in specific power, and with up to four bundles of Mark III type fuel in the superheat region.

The EVESR operation is reported to have been generally satisfactory. Some difficulties have occurred with the main steam line isolation valves, with the air lock doors into the containment building, and with the activated carbon filters. Modifications have been made to remedy deficiencies in the design and in operating procedures.

In view of the successful operation of the facility at power levels up to 17 MW(t), the ACRS believes that the EVESR reactor can continue to be operated under a ten year license without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
W. D. Manly
Chairman

References Attached.

References (EVESR)

1. Letter dated April 7, 1965 from E. W. O'Rourke, General Electric Company, to Dr. R. L. Doan, AEC.
2. Report of Operating Experience During Second Six Months After Achieving Full Power, ESADA - Vallecitos Experimental Superheat Reactor (EVESR), dated July 2, 1965.
3. Report of Tests and Operations During Ascent to Full Power, ESADA - Vallecitos Experimental Superheat Reactor, dated July 10, 1964.
4. Report of Operating Experience During First Six Months After Achieving Full Power, ESADA - Vallecitos Experimental Superheat Reactor (EVESR), dated January 12, 1965.