

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

February 19, 1964

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

Subject: REPORT ON NASA PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

At its fifty-third meeting on February 13-15, 1964, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards again considered operation of the 60 MW(t) test reactor at the NASA Plum Brook station near Sandusky, Ohio. The NASA wishes to convert its present provisional operating license to a ten-year operating license. The Committee heard oral presentations by the PBRF organization and the AEC staff, and had the reports cited below. The Committee last commented on the PBRF on April 4, 1962.

The facility has operated up to full power since April 21, 1963, and has carried out a number of irradiation tests. During the operation, a number of facility modifications have been made, and minor operating problems have been corrected. No major design or operating problems have been reported.

At PBRF, reviews of the design of experiments and of the associated operation are conducted by the facility Safeguards Committee which is made up of eight members: four from PBRF, two from Lewis Research Center, and two consultants who are not regular NASA employees. Ad hoc members are added as needed. The ACRS believes that a careful review of experiments and operations by the full facility Safeguards Committee is an important continuing function and that non-NASA members are necessary to a balanced observation and independent Committee action.

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In its letter of November 5, 1957, the Committee noted that, due to site limitations, it might be unsafe to carry out some tests in this facility.

The Committee believes that, with careful planning and operation, the NASA PBRF organization can continue to operate this facility without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Herbert Kouts  
Chairman

References

1. Letter from S. Neil Hosenball, NASA Lewis Research Center, to AEC Director, Division of Licensing and Regulation, dated January 10, 1964.
2. "Report on Approach to Power Test Program and Other Operations Pertinent to Safety for the NASA Plum Brook Reactor", dated May 27, 1963.
3. "Report of Reactor Operations for the NASA Plum Brook Reactor", dated November 18, 1963.