

November 8, 1999

Dr. Dana A. Powers, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE B-55, "IMPROVED RELIABILITY OF TARGET ROCK SAFETY RELIEF VALVES"

Dear Chairman Powers:

This is in response to your letter of October 8, 1999, in which you discussed the views of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) regarding the NRC staff's proposed closure of Generic Safety Issue (GSI) B-55, "Increased Reliability of Target Rock Safety Relief Valves." You noted that the ACRS agrees with the staff's proposed resolution of GSI B-55 and that the staff should perform a statistical analysis to ensure that the apparent improvement in performance of the two-stage valves is significant and confirms the staff's conclusion.

The staff fully agrees with your views and will include a statistical analysis of the two-stage valve setpoint performance data in the final closeout report for GSI B-55. The statistical analysis will address the relative differences in performance between the valve pilot disks used in the past and those currently being used to improve performance. We will transmit a copy of the final closeout report to the ACRS in early December 1999.

We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the resolution of GSI B-55 with the ACRS.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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cc: Chairman Meserve
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 Commissioner Diaz
 Commissioner McGaffigan
 Commissioner Merrifield *See previous concurrences
 SECY

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