



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 28, 1987

Cys: Stello  
Taylor  
Rehm  
Murley, NRR  
Beckford, RES  
Murray, OGC/B  
EDO R/F

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Roberts  
Commissioner Bernthal  
Commissioner Carr  
Commissioner Rogers

FROM: Lando W. Zech, Jr. *Lando W. Zech Jr.*

SUBJECT: COMTR-87-3 - ACRS COMMENTS ON THE ADVANCE NOTICE OF  
PROPOSED RULEMAKING: DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR  
OPERATORS

Each of the concerns expressed by the ACRS were carefully considered by the Commission during review of SECY-87-101, Issues and Options Concerning Degree Requirements for Senior Operators. Upon completion of our deliberations, the Commission majority agreed that a rule was the appropriate method to be used in this case. The ACRS has advanced no argument that would compel me to change my position on this matter.

It is gratifying to know that the ACRS agrees with the goals of the Commission in the subject matter. I regret that they do not agree with the Commission majority concerning the method to be used to achieve those goals.

During my recent visit to Arkansas Nuclear One, I spoke with a number of licensed operators who were participating in a utility-sponsored program which would result in their receiving a bachelor of science degree. The individuals I spoke with were very enthusiastic about the program and considered it to be a valuable job benefit. I firmly believe that such a program, if carefully developed by responsible management with public safety foremost in mind, will result in a substantial improvement in the ability of our licensed operators to recognize and respond to unfamiliar operating situations and, thus, will result in a substantial increase in public safety.

It is my opinion that these issues will be further explored and developed as the process of developing the Rule continues. I also believe that we will revisit these issues during the orderly process prescribed for rulemaking.

cc: ACRS  
EDO  
SECY

Cy: Ross  
Speis  
Kelber  
Sheron/Minners  
F. Coffman  
A. Rubin  
Morris/Rosztoczy  
Marcus

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PDR REVOP NRGCRGR  
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