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Mr. Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Stello:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON NUREG-1206, "ANALYSIS OF FRENCH (PALUEL)
PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR DESIGN DIFFERENCES COMPARED TO
CURRENT U.S. PWR DESIGNS" DATED JUNE 1986

During its 319th meeting, November 6-8, 1986, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards was briefed by members of the NRC Staff concerning the Staff's review of the safety differences between a typical French pressurized water reactor (Paluel) and a typical U.S. four-loop PWR -- a SNUPPS plant. A subcommittee meeting was previously held to discuss this subject on September 25, 1986. NUREG-1206, which has been published by the Staff, is an excellent report on this subject.

The NRC Staff had previously performed a review of the safety differences between the British Sizewell B design and the SNUPPS plants.

These efforts were in part pursuant to an ACRS recommendation that the Staff perform such studies of the differences in safety design between U.S. plants and those in other countries.

We believe that these efforts by the Staff have been worthwhile and should be continued. The Staff representatives suggested that the KONVOI series of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) might be a good next choice to study. We agree that KONVOI is a good candidate, and suggest that the comparison might involve a more recent U.S. design such as the South Texas project. We would also like to see a boiling water reactor (FRG, Swedish, or a Japanese design) compared with U.S. BWRs.

In any event, the ACRS recommends continuation of this program.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

References:

1. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Analysis of French (Paluel) Pressurized Water Reactor Design Differences Compared to Current U.S. PWR Designs," U.S. NRC Report NUREG-1206, dated June 1986.
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Sizewell B - Analysis of

British Application of U.S. PWR Technology," U.S. NRC Report NUREG-0999, dated May 1983.

3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Review and Evaluation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Research Program for Fiscal Year 1984 and 1985 - A Report to the Congress of the United States of America," U.S. NRC Report NUREG-0963, dated February 1983.

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