



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

APR 26 1985

Mr. William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. ^{Bill} Dircks:

In response to your letter of March 14, 1985, we are providing our plans and schedules for interacting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the advanced reactor area.

We are enclosing for your review and concurrence a licensing plan for an advanced High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR). This plan identifies the licensing related activities, administrative process, organizational responsibilities, and schedule we understand would be necessary to support NRC review and approval. Following your concurrence, this licensing plan would be implemented by the Department of Energy and NRC.

As our recently initiated Liquid Metal Reactor (LMR) design studies progress, we will also be forwarding for your approval a LMR licensing plan. We anticipate the availability of this document by May 31, 1985.

We will also submit later this year our plans and schedules for interactions with NRC on advanced light water reactors. We are currently reviewing and coordinating our efforts with those of industry to minimize duplication of development efforts, including advanced licensing interactions with NRC.

We want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the constructive and productive interaction that has transpired to date between the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Department. Our objective will be to identify an overall coordinator for these efforts within the Department who can work closely with your staff to set priorities and assure continued progress in these important areas.

As we have discussed, the Advanced Concepts Licensing efforts underway by NRC in cooperation with our development efforts are essential and important efforts in assuring safe, reliable, and practical nuclear power options for the future. Our mutual objective must be to assure that these licensing plans provide a means to develop licensing bases that may be used by future applicants for advanced designs with no necessity to develop additional licensing bases.

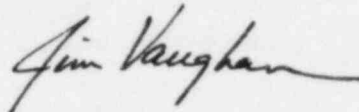
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We are committed to a continuing and productive interaction in this area. I trust that we can continue to work together to assure that both the Department and NRC apply the resources needed to effectively accomplish the tasks at hand.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Vaughan". The signature is fluid and extends to the right.

James W. Vaughan, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Nuclear Energy

Enclosure