

October 23, 1996

Mr. James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Taylor:

SUBJECT: DRAFT UPDATE OF STANDARD REVIEW PLAN, CHAPTER 7,  
"INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROLS"

During the 435th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, October 9-12, 1996, we reviewed portions of the draft update of Standard Review Plan (SRP), Chapter 7, "Instrumentation and Controls." We heard presentations by and held discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and its contractor, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), regarding proposed SRP sections and Branch Technical Positions (BTPs) related to digital instrumentation and control (I&C) systems. In addition, our Subcommittee on Instrumentation and Control Systems and Computers met with the NRC staff and LLNL on October 8, 1996, to discuss this matter. We had previously met with the staff and LLNL in March and May 1996 to discuss draft SRP sections, BTPs, and associated regulatory guides, and provided comments in a letter dated June 6, 1996. We also had the benefit of the documents referenced.

We have no objection to the staff's proposal for issuing the draft update of SRP Chapter 7 and associated BTPs for public comment. However, in the June 6, 1996 letter, we identified issues regarding the level of detail provided in the regulatory guides, the balance in the guidance between the review of the design process and the assessment of the product, the linkage between Chapter 7 and other SRP chapters, and graded approaches based on importance to safety. In a letter dated June 21, 1996, you responded to our letter of June 6, 1996, stating that the staff will continue its discussions with the ACRS on these issues. We plan to discuss these matters with the staff during our future meetings.

Sincerely,

/s/

T. S. Kress  
Chairman

References:

1. Memorandum dated September 16, 1996, from Frank J. Miraglia, Jr., Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, to Edward L. Jordan, Committee to Review Generic Requirements, Subject: Request for Review of Updated Standard Review Plan Chapter 7, Instrumentation and Controls (attached)
2. Letter dated June 6, 1996, from T. S. Kress, ACRS Chairman, to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, Subject: Regulatory Guidance Documents Related to Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems
3. Letter dated June 21, 1996, from James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, to T. S. Kress, ACRS Chairman, Subject: Regulatory Guidance Documents Related to Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems