



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

FILE

September 25, 1996 RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Jackson SEP 26 1996  
FROM: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations  
SUBJECT: REVIEW ACTIVITIES OF NSRRC IN EVOLVING REGULATORY  
NEEDS (INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT - DSI 19)

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has completed a preliminary survey of the areas of common interest and potential overlap in the activities of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and the Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC). Further examination of this initial information will be made to determine the extent of overlap of the two oversight Committees with particular focus on the Charter of the NSRRC which includes assessment and recommendations concerning: conformance of the NRC research program to the NRC Philosophy of Nuclear Regulatory Research and to specific Commission directions; likelihood of the program meeting the needs of the users; appropriateness of longer range research programs and the correctness of their direction; whether the best people are doing the work at the best places; whether the program is free of obvious bias; and whether the research products have been given adequate, unbiased peer review. The results of this examination will be used by the NSRRC to evaluate what value the NSRRC is contributing to the Agency's mission, and to produce a set of criteria under which the performance of the NSRRC would be evaluated in the future. A meeting of the NSRRC is scheduled for November 14 -15, 1996, to address these items.

In parallel with the evaluation described above, the Chairman of the NSRRC and the Director, RES, discussed coordination of NSRRC activities with the ACRS at a meeting of the ACRS on September 13, 1996. This discussion was motivated by the SRM, M960826, dated September 10, 1996, to E. Thomas Boulette, Chairman, NSRRC, that requested the NSRRC to coordinate its activities with those of the ACRS in areas of joint interest to ensure that the activities are supportive and complimentary and not duplicative. Joint meetings of the subcommittees of ACRS and NSRRC on topics of mutual interest were posed as an initial step to ensure better coordination. The ACRS PRA subcommittee will hold a meeting on October 31-November 1, 1996, to discuss with the staff their draft regulatory guide, "An Approach for Plant Specific Risk-Informed Decision Making: General Guidance." ACRS will welcome NSRRC participation in this meeting. An initial discussion was held on a joint meeting on digital I&C which will be scheduled later in 1996 pending the publication of the report from the National Research

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Council. These meetings will help to guide the process of improving coordination, help to identify if the overlap between the Committees' activities can be reduced, and will contribute additional insights to answer the question of the value of NSRRC to the Agency's mission.

cc: Commissioner Rogers  
 Commissioner Dicus  
 Commissioner Diaz  
 Commissioner McGaffigan  
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