



ACRSR-1290  
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 15, 1988

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON EMBRITTLEMENT OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

There has been a recent exchange of letters between the ACRS and the NRC concerning the possibility of threats to the safety of nuclear power plants due to the more rapid than expected embrittlement of pressure vessel supports from radiation at low temperatures. During the 335th meeting of the ACRS, March 10-12, 1988, we heard presentations from the NRC Staff on its further evaluation of this matter. Our Subcommittee on Metal Components met on February 18, 1988 to discuss this matter.

We believe that the program the NRC Staff is undertaking to resolve this matter is appropriate. There are clearly important uncertainties remaining but the effort being implemented should generate the information needed in a timely manner. We would like to be kept informed on the progress and resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,

William Kerr  
Chairman

References:

1. Letter dated July 15, 1987 from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Victor Stello, Jr. Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, Subject: ACRS Comments on the Embrittlement of Structural Steel
2. Memorandum dated October 7, 1987 from Victor Stello, Jr., Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, to William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, Regarding the Embrittlement of Structural Steel
3. Letter dated December 8, 1987 from William Kerr, ACRS Chairman, to Victor Stello, Jr., Executive Director for Operations, U.S. NRC, Subject: ACRS Comments on Memorandum from Victor Stello, Jr., EDO, dated October 7, 1987 Regarding the Embrittlement of Structural Steel

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