

D850313

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

Dear Mr. Dircks:

SUBJECT: NEED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING PREFERRED OPERATOR ACTION FOR  
POSTULATED SCENARIOS IN WHICH AC POWER IS RESTORED AFTER  
SEVERE CORE DAMAGE HAS OCCURRED

It is not currently clear that the preferred operator action can be unambiguously specified for postulated accident scenarios in which recovery is attempted after severe core damage has occurred and perhaps even melting has begun. For example, should an operator initiate as much coolant flow to the reactor vessel as would be possible in a scenario involving loss of all AC power which is later restored? Should all this be done under all occasions for all containment types? The currently proposed emergency operating procedures appear to lead to that choice, although they were developed primarily through consideration of cores not severely damaged.

The Committee recommends that a preliminary analytical study be undertaken in an effort to provide further insight into this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward  
Chairman

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