

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

March 14, 1960

Honorable John A. McCone
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: BOILING NUCLEAR SUPERHEATER (BONUS) POWER STATION

Dear Mr. McCone:

At its twenty-fourth meeting, March 10-12, 1960, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed the Boiling Nuclear Superheater (BONUS) Power Station on the basis of the documents referenced below and material presented at this ACRS meeting and the preceding ACRS BONUS Subcommittee meeting (February 16, 1960) by the General Nuclear Engineering Corporation, the Puerto Rico Water Resources Authority, and Volpe, Boskey and Skallerup. The Committee also had the benefit of comments of the Staff of the AEC and others.

Presupposing the continuation of present generally favorable experience with the boiling water reactors the nuclear superheater represents the main experimental item of the proposed reactor. Prior to operation, pertinent information developed for gas-cooled reactors as well as information from the VBWR superheater experiment will have to be reviewed. It is recognized that this information will leave some questions unanswered, such as long-term integrity of the superheater fuel elements and radioactive contamination of the turbine. It will be necessary to show that these open questions do not cause a hazard to the health and safety of the public.

With the above reservation the Committee concludes that the proposed reactor may be constructed with reasonable assurance that it can be operated at the site selected without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Leslie Silverman

Leslie Silverman
Chairman

cc: A. R. Luedecke, GM
W. F. Finan, OGM
H. L. Price, DL&R

Honorable John A. McCone
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References

- 1) Boiling Nuclear Superheater (BONUS) Power Station Preliminary Hazards Summary Report, Parts A and B (PRWRA-GNEC 2), December 21, 1959.
- 2) Letter to H. L. Price from General Nuclear Engineering Corporation, dated February 24, 1960.