



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

October 15, 1984

The Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON NRC PROPOSED FINAL RULE ON PRESSURIZED  
THERMAL SHOCK EVENTS

During its 294th meeting, October 11-13, 1984, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed the NRC proposed final rule on the analysis of potential pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events. The Committee reported previously to you regarding this matter on June 7, 1982 and October 14, 1982.

We believe that the rule's screening criteria related to the fracture resistance of the pressure vessel steel are adequate. Furthermore, research results since our October 14, 1982 letter indicate that the criteria are more conservative than was clear at that time. Action by the utilities, including flux reduction programs and better characterization of the composition of the limiting welds, has substantially increased the time before these screening levels will be reached.

The NRC Staff is continuing its PTS program to test generic bases for the rule by performing plant-specific analyses, developing guidance for licensee performance of plant-specific analyses required by the rule, and developing criteria for judging acceptability of operation beyond the screening criteria. We wish to be kept informed on the development of these matters.

We concur in the proposed PTS rule and believe that it should be issued for industry use as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jesse C. Ebersole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jesse C. Ebersole  
Chairman