

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

January 19, 1966

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg  
Chairman  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: AEROSPACE NUCLEAR SAFETY

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

At its sixty-eighth meeting, in November 1965, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards was briefed by the Space Nuclear Systems Division on the current status of the aerospace nuclear program with special emphasis on the organization and procedures for safety review of space nuclear operations. The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for being brought up to date in this area and hopes that from time to time further such information sessions can be planned.

At the briefing, the Committee was told that plans called for primary technical responsibility for review of the nuclear safety aspects of the aerospace program to reside in an interagency safety committee, made up of two members each from AEC, DOD, and NASA. The technical safety recommendations of this committee would be reviewed at a high level by representatives of AEC, DID, and HASA. The AEC might, for example, be represented by Commissioners. The recommendation of this review would then go to the Space Council, and finally to the President.

During discussion with the Commissioners at the Sixty-Ninth ACRS Meeting in January 1966, the Committee was advised that the AEC is now proposing that the interagency safety committee also include independent experts who do not have a direct organizational interest in the aerospace program. The Committee strongly endorses the intent of this proposed modification and urges that a sufficient number of independent members be included on the interagency safety committee to insure objectivity in this safety review which we believe is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ David Okrent

David Okrent  
Chairman