



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

May 16, 1979

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: REPORT ON QUANTITATIVE SAFETY GOALS

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards recommends that consideration be given by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to the establishment of quantitative safety goals for overall safety of nuclear power reactors. This could be helpful, for example, in developing criteria for NRC actions concerning operating plants. The ACRS recognizes the difficulties and uncertainties in the quantification of risk and understands that in many situations engineering judgment will be the only or the primary basis for a decision. Nevertheless, the ACRS believes that the existence of quantitative safety goals and criteria can provide important yardsticks for such judgment.

The ACRS believes that such NRC goals and criteria should be proposed for comment, not only by the public but by the Congress. Ultimately the Congress should be asked to express its views on the suitability of such goals and criteria in relation to other relevant aspects of our technological society, such as large dams, and manufacturing, storage, or disposal facilities for hazardous chemicals.

The ACRS believes that it is time to place the discussion of risk, nuclear and nonnuclear, on as quantitative a basis as feasible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark W. Cohen".

Mark W. Cohen

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