



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

PDR

June 3, 1985

Mr. Giovanni Naschi
Direttore
Direzione della Sicurezza Nucleare
e della Protezione Sanitaria
ENEA
Via Vitaliano Brancati 48
I-00144 Roma-Eur

Dear Mr. Naschi:

Giovanni

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 1985 on the work of the CSNI Special Task Force on Source Terms. The USNRC is very interested in the activities of the Special Task Force and the results of their effort. I am pleased to note that the NRC has actively supported the Special Task Force with representation and detailed participation from the NRC staff and one of its contractors. We were also pleased to host the initial meeting of the Special Task Force held in Rockville, Maryland in February.

As you know, the NRC staff is in the process of completing its own source term reassessment study to be documented as Draft NUREG-0956. During the February and April meetings of the Special Task Force, the NRC staff representative presented status reports on NUREG-0956 and also provided insights and perspectives gained from the staff source term reassessment.

With the development of NUREG-0956 nearing completion, the NRC staff has recently initiated effort on planning for the regulatory implementation of the results of source term research. This effort will first identify areas of potential regulatory changes which merit consideration for further detailed evaluation.

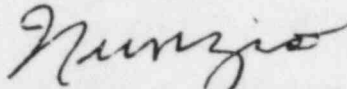
Since source terms form the basis for the whole regulatory framework, if major changes are to be made in this structure, then they must be made on the basis of scientifically accepted principles and methodology. An important guideline in the NRC staff's application of source term research is that any change in regulatory practice must be supported by sound science. In considering possible regulatory changes, we must also be careful to avoid blanket applications of the source term research. It is true that important progress has been made in this area and that uncertainties in source term estimation are being narrowed. Considerations of uncertainty will vary with the specific regulatory application. The American Physical Society Study Group, in their report, pointed out the difficulties in making "sweeping generalizations" about source term estimates.

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The NRC will be pleased to keep you informed about the progress of the staff's regulatory implementation phase for source terms. Unfortunately, this effort is not far enough along to provide insights on regulatory implications for use by the CSNI Special Task Force on Source Terms.

We are looking forward to reviewing the report of the Special Task Force and to the information that it can contribute to the NRC staff activities on source term research and the application to the regulatory process. Once again let me thank you for sharing your thoughts on the source term issue. I look forward to further discussions on this subject with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nunzio", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman