



Direzione Sicurezza Nucleare
e Protezione Sanitaria

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Prot. n. 008254

Dr. Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20555 - U.S.A.

Dear Nunzio,

I feel the need to directly consult with you on the subject of Source Terms in case of hypothetical Severe Accidents, which we already touched upon in previous discussions.

As you certainly are informed, this issue will be the subject of a Special Meeting of the OECD/NEA Subcommittee on Licensing next June 26th and 27th in Paris. My specific interest in the fruitful outcome of this meeting stems also from the fact that I presently serve the Subcommittee on Licensing as its Chairman.

The general charter of the meeting is to determine what can be concluded on the basis of the recent studies on Source Terms (ANS, IDCOR, BMI, SWEC, APS, NRC) from the viewpoint of Licensing and regulatory bodies.

CHAIRMAN-RECD A special Task Force, in which the staff of regulatory agencies of various countries is represented, is presently at work in order to prepare a report to be used as a discussion basis for the
2 MAY 85 13:12 Special Meeting.

From the work of this Task Force, the possibility seems to emerge that a more completely integrated approach to the problem might lead to results which compare with the accident experience and with the opinion of many experts better than the extreme WASH 1400 figures.

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PDR COMMS NRCC
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This proposed approach is described in the three enclosed documents, named Task XIV, Task VII and Attachments to Task XVII according to the work subdivision adopted by the Task Force. The Task XIV document is the more general one and the Task XVII document is a technical support to it.

It is my feeling, at this point, that as an outcome of the ongoing work, a substantial reduction of Source Terms with respect to WASH 1400 figures may be justified for fission products other than noble gases. This results on the basis of the recent achievements of the research on the phenomena involved in the dominant accident sequences, of the consideration of capability of remedial actions by plant personnel and of a "de minimis" sequence probability cut-off in a typical range of the order of 10^{-7} - 10^{-8} per reactor year.

If the further progress of the international Task Force work confirms these indications, I think it is important that the Regulatory Organizations concur in the acknowledgement of these results and recognize that they warrant proper consideration in the regulatory activity.

The importance, complexity and nature of the implications of the matter requires, to my opinion, the involvement not only of the research sections of our organizations, but also of the licensing branches as well. More over it is my feeling that the discussion that will follow would be greatly helped by indications of interest and by directives from the top management.

It is my plan to attend the last session of the next Special Task Force Meeting on May 21st in order to convey there some comments on the progress of its work. I would therefore be pleased to know your point of view for that time.

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I thought useful to send a copy of this letter to Dr. Bill Dircks for his early information.

I thank you very much for your attention and I hope to meet you soon. I send you my best regards.

Yours sincerely

Giuseppe Neri

Enclosures: 3