

DSI-22

(2)



NRC STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND REBASELINING INITIATIVE

DIRECTION SETTING ISSUE COMMENT FORM

NAME Richard Ratliff

PHONE NO. (512) 534-6488

AFFILIATION Org. of Agreement States

PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE:

- ☐ DSI 2 - Oversight of the Department of Energy
- ☐ DSI 4 - NRC's Relationship with Agreement States
- ☐ DSI 5 - Low-Level Waste
- ☐ DSI 6 - High-Level Waste
- ☐ DSI 7 - Materials/Medical Oversight
- ☐ DSI 9 - Decommissioning - Non Reactor Facilities
- ☐ DSI 10 - Reactor Licensing for Future Applicants
- ☐ DSI 11 - Operating Reactor Program Oversight
- ☐ DSI 12 - Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulation

- ☐ DSI 13 - Role of Industry
- ☐ DSI 14 - Public Communication Initiatives
- ☐ DSI 20 - International Activities
- ☐ DSI 21 - Fees
- ☒ DSI 22 - Research
- ☐ DSI 23 - Enhancing Regulatory Excellence
- ☐ DSI 24 - Power Reactor Decommissioning
- ☐ General

COMMENT:

Attached

9610300072 961024
PDR NRC SA I PDR
22



DSI 3 0/1

Organization of Agreement States

Comments on

U.S. NRC Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining Initiative

Direction Setting Issue Paper # 22 "Research"

The NRC should continue to conduct both confirmatory and exploratory research in order to keep up with the ever-changing technology and to have strong technical bases for rule changes. The collaboration of a core group at NRC focused on well-defined technical priorities (Option 5) with exploratory research conducted in universities (Option 6) would appear to be the best approach. The NRC should also continue to participate to the extent practicable in international cooperative safety programs.

With regard to the Subsumed Issue 1 regarding core expertise, it may be easier for NRC to maintain some of the areas of expertise through contractual arrangements at national laboratories and universities than to maintain of complex issues that may arise.