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# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INSTITUTE

February 19, 1985

Mr. Samuel J. Chilk  
Secretary to the Commission  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20555

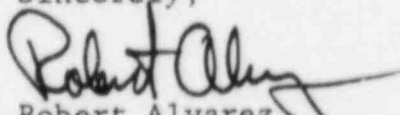
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Dear Mr. Chilk:

I am writing to request that Dr. Susan Niemczyk be permitted to present her views relative to the revisions in reactor "source terms" when the NRC staff will brief the Commission next month on this issue. As you may know, Dr. Niemczyk has been significantly involved in "source term" research for the national laboratories over the past several years. Her research is currently being used by the nuclear industry (IDCOR) in their assessment of "source terms." Currently, Dr. Niemczyk is a consultant to the Environmental Policy Institute (EPI) and is reviewing the different efforts now underway in this important area of research.

Although, we do not know exactly when the NRC staff will present their views to the Commission, we hope that you will inform us of the date and reserve time for Dr. Niemczyk during the presentation.

Sincerely,



Robert Alvarez  
Director, Nuclear Power  
and Weapons Project

cc NRC Commissioners,  
H.R. Denton, R. Minogue  
and W. Dircks

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For this and other reasons, the study group found it impossible to make a sweeping generalization that the calculated "source term" would always be a small fraction of the fission product inventory at reactor shutdown.

These are the principal conclusions of a report delivered to the NRC today by a study group of the American Physical Society.

The American Physical Society were requested to:

"review the adequacy of the technical base upon which the phenomenological models of radioactive nuclide release from postulated severe reactor accidents are constructed, the adequacy of the models themselves, and the correct use of the complex computer codes that incorporate these models in the analysis of the accident sequence."

After the accident at Three Mile Island it was observed that much less radioactive iodine was released than had been expected in an accident of this magnitude. This prompted an international study to examine whether the same conclusion could apply to other situations.

The study group included: Richard Wilson (Harvard University); Kamal Araç (Harvard University); Augustine Allen (Shoreham, NY); Peter Auer (Cornell University); David Boulware (University of Washington); Fred Finlayson (Aerospace Corporation, Los Angeles, CA); Simon Goren (University of California, Berkeley, CA); Clark Ice (Aiken, SC); Leon Lidofsky (Columbia University, NY); Allen Sessoms (Dept. of State, Washington, DC); Mary Shoaf (Princeton University, NJ); Irving Spiewak (Oak Ridge, TN); and Thomas Tombrello (California Institute of Technology, CA).

Attached to this press release are copies of the executive summary and conclusions.