

November 18, 1996

Ralph E. Beedle
Senior Vice President and Chief
Nuclear Officer/Nuclear Generation
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Beedle:

We received your letter, dated October 28, 1996, concerning the use of the revised source term at operating power plants. Your letter stated that the industry has a strong interest in using the revised source term and requested that NRC consider use of an alternate implementation process to demonstrate compliance with existing regulations rather than proceeding with rulemaking.

Representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the industry presented their views on this issue to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on November 6, 1996. As you are aware, the NRC staff is assessing the need for rulemaking to support implementation of the revised source term at operating plants. Information gained from rebaselining of two plants will aid the NRC in its assessment. NEI's proposals will be considered during these efforts. Also, your letter will be acknowledged in a Commission paper concerning implementation of the revised source term.

In your letter, NEI encouraged NRC to permit use of the revised source term on an expedited schedule. The schedule for implementing the revised source term and reviews of plant-specific applications will be commensurate with other review priorities within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

We appreciate your sharing your suggestions and your concerns. If you have additional suggestions, please do not hesitate to let me know. You may also direct any questions to Richard Emch at 301-415-1068 or James H. Wilson at 301-415-1108.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas T. Martin", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation