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The Honorable Ivan Selin  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

SUBJECT: NEED FOR REVIEW OF RATIONALE FOR REGULATION

During our review of source-term issues at the 407th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, March 10-12, 1994, we were struck once again by the need to review the traditional bases for plant licensing and regulation. The source-term issues are part of the general question of the proper role for the standard design basis accidents, which is part of the issue of the often-mentioned bottom-up review of the General Design Criteria. These basic reviews of the continuing rationale for regulation never seem to assume a high priority within NRC, relative to short-term matters. We think they should.

Sincerely,

J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.  
Chairman