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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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Roger J. Mattson, Director  
Division of Siting, Health and  
Safeguards Standards  
Office of Standards Development

REPORT OF NEUTRON QUALITY FACTOR TASK GROUP

I have reviewed the August 20, 1976 report by Glenn Zimmer and the Neutron Quality Factor Task Group. In addition I have studied and discussed with R. E. Alexander and Zimmer preliminary value impact information prepared by the Occupational Health Standards Branch concerning potential neutron exposures in the United States.

I find this information sufficient basis to initiate activities to reach a consensus NRC staff technical position on the need to revise 10 CFR Part 20 to reflect recent scientific findings advanced by Dr. H. H. Rossi (Alternative six of the Task Force Report). Further, although the number of employees of NRC licensees exposed to neutrons in their work is low and the exposure levels are low, my discussion with Alexander and Zimmer has indicated to me that if the hypotheses advanced by Dr. Rossi are correct, changes of a broad nature to some of our regulatory practices may well be indicated. For example, requirements and practices related to who should be monitored, techniques of neutron dosimetry, storage and handling of neutron dosimeters, operational and procedural controls to reduce unnecessary neutron exposure, and other similar factors may need to be changed where, by current standards, present exposures are at de minimus levels but would take on more significance if the standards were modified by a factor of 10. Your work should be undertaken from this broad perspective and not simply as a potential change in Part 20.

Please arrange for commencement of this work within the other ongoing programs of your Division. The position should be developed within six months. I understand that this can be accomplished without disruption of goals and objectives of the ongoing program of the Occupational Health Standards Branch.

*Robert B. Mincogue*  
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cc: Robert E. Alexander  
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