



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

March 25, 1982

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

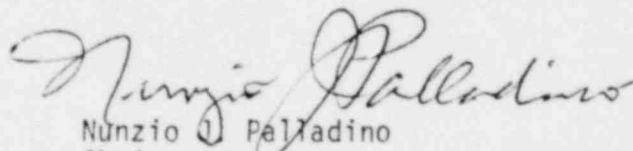
This is in response to your request for the Commission's position on NUREG/CR-1682, "Electrical Insulators in a Reactor Accident Environment," a report prepared by Sandia National Laboratories. I regret the delay in responding to your query.

The research reported in NUREG/CR-1682 was a scoping study to acquire a feel for the extent of vulnerability of electrical terminal blocks to accident conditions. As such, the effort expended was modest. For example, data were obtained using simple test equipment at moderate accident conditions and extrapolations were made to full loss-of-coolant-accident conditions. The test results are inconclusive because of these extrapolations and the considerable scatter of the results. The failure rates suggested by the test data must be considered in this context. Our analysis of the report concludes as follows:

- ° The research is considered to be preliminary in nature and the results are being used to scope follow-on NRC efforts concerning this issue.
- ° The terminal block issue raised in the report does not constitute a safety problem requiring any immediate action such as a change in existing NRC regulations or other licensing or inspection actions.
- ° The report does re-emphasize the need for the terminal blocks to be properly installed and maintained, including their adequate cleanness.

We have issued an information notice to licensees which puts the report in perspective and cautions licensees as to the importance of maintenance of electrical components, such as electrical terminal blocks. Staff also intends to watch this issue through existing provisions in the NRC inspection program.

Sincerely,


Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman

cc: Rep. Manuel Lujan