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August 25, 1982

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-50
(46 FR 57521)

The Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-Safety Goals
(45 FR 71023)

Dear Chairman Palladino:

At the July 13, 1982, Commission briefing on the status of the ATWS rulemaking, the Staff outlined the method of and schedule for resolution of the ATWS issue. The method described included the formation of a Task Force and Steering Group, consisting of Staff personnel, which will review various alternatives for resolution of this issue and present their conclusions to the Commissioners by December 1, 1982.

The following day, on July 14, 1982, the Staff briefed the Commissioners on the status of the Commission's Proposed Policy Statement on Safety Goals and the action plan for implementing these safety goals. At that meeting, it was indicated that the promulgation of safety goals, including cost-benefit criteria, and the plan for their implementation may not occur until early 1983.

With regard to the schedules presented at these meetings for the development of an ATWS resolution versus the establishment of safety goals and implementation plan, we are concerned that the Staff will finalize its proposed resolution to the ATWS issue without benefit of established safety goals and implementation guidance, against which the appropriateness of such a resolution should be measured. In our enclosed April 21, 1982, letter to the Secretary of the Commission, we recommended that, in view of the magnitude of the potential expenditures to comply with any of the proposed rules to resolve ATWS, the very

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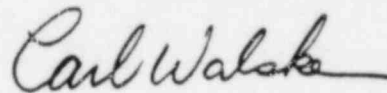
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August 25, 1982

low risk of consequences from ATWS, and other more current and pressing problems demanding attention, action to resolve this issue should be taken only following completion of the safety goal policy and implementation plan. We now wish to reiterate that recommendation.

We would be pleased to discuss this further with your staff.

Sincerely,



CW:heu
Enclosure