



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 21, 1991

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Dr. T. E. Murley  
Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Murley:

This letter is to advise you of our intention to resume formal interactions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) regarding the Modular High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (MHTGR). In the near term, our objective will be to establish mutually acceptable licensing bases that will focus on the continuation of design and research activities by the MHTGR program and completion of the NRC's Preapplication Safety Evaluation Report (PSER). The ultimate product of these interactions is expected to be certification of a standard MHTGR design.

We have held initial discussions with the Advanced Reactors Project Directorate, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and with the the Advanced Reactor Branch, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), to outline the MHTGR program plan. We also held an information meeting with the ACRS Subcommittee on Advanced Reactors on August 6, 1991.

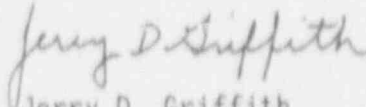
In the draft PSER issued by RES, various safety issues were identified for future resolution including four key policy issues: (1) selection of transient and accident events that must be considered in design, (2) radionuclide source term definition, (3) adequacy of the containment concept, and (4) adequacy of emergency planning. It is the Department of Energy's (DOE) intent to work with NRR and RES to further define and resolve these issues, as well as other design or research sensitive issues also identified in the draft PSER.

DOE will provide additional submittals and respond to questions as needed so that the final PSER can be completed in an expeditious manner.

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*Add: T. Murley*  
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We look forward to working with your organization in these reviews. Dr. Peter M. Williams is the Director of the HTGR Division, Office of Advanced Reactor Programs. He can be contacted at (301) 353-2022 for further information.

Sincerely,



Jerry D. Griffith  
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Reactor Systems  
Development and Technology  
Office of Nuclear Energy

cc:  
Mr. E. S. Beckjord, RES, NRC