



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

24 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing

FROM: Roger J. Mattson, Director, DSI  
Richard H. Vollmer, Director, DE  
Themis P. Speis, Director, DST

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT ON SEVERE ACCIDENTS  
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE GESSAR-II PRA REVIEW SCHEDULE

The proposed Commission Policy Statement on Severe Accidents would require consideration of design and operations improvements on future plants to reduce the risk from severe accidents. A major feature of the policy would be the use of PRAs in arriving at decisions regarding the need for any additional accident preventive or mitigative features. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you about our approach for making timely Severe Accident Policy decisions during the ongoing GESSAR-II review, pending final Commission decisions and ongoing research on related matters. The late submittal of General Electric's external events PRA for GESSAR-II and delays in the completion of the NRC source term assessment, would prohibit the staff from making final decisions regarding any new requirements for the GESSAR-II design during this calendar year. We do not recommend the use of the WASH-1400 era source term for making major decisions on the GESSAR-II design since the perceived conservatism in the WASH-1400 source term would distort our value impact judgments.

The current GESSAR-II PRA review schedule presumed that a revised source term methodology would be available in June 1983 and that the external events PRA would be submitted in time to permit staff review in 1983. The present schedule for submittal by GE of the GESSAR-II external events PRA is October 1983 and the completion and formal release of the revised source term methodology is now projected for July 1984 (following American Physical Society (APS) review).

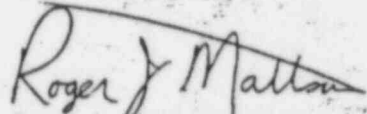
We do not recommend delaying the issuance of our SER until after the completion of the APS review of the source term. Instead we believe that substantive bases can be developed for making decisions on GESSAR-II with a modest revision to the schedule. The milestones for the revised schedule would be:

- ° GE submits external events PRA 10/31/83
- ° Revised source term methodology available to the staff from the Accident Source Term Program Office (same as MK III version referred to APS) 12/31/83

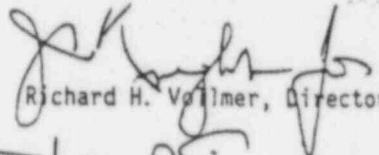
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- Staff defines acceptable source term for use by General Electric 01/31/84
- GE submits reanalysis of value and impact of severe accident design and operations features using new source term 02/29/84
- Staff preliminary assessment of GE external events PRA 03/15/84
- Staff SER to DL which includes external events and the revised source term 05/15/84

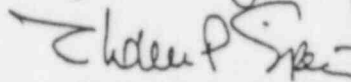
The staff SER to DL in May 1984 will contain a proviso that if the source term changes significantly as a result of the APS review, the SER would be supplemented in the course of rulemaking for certification of the GESSAR-II design. Also, if the GE reanalysis resulting from the staff external events review is not completed in time for the May 1984 SER, a final assessment will be issued in a supplemental SER in the course of rulemaking. It is our understanding that the Director of NRR and the EDO should be asked to approve this proposed use of the revised source term before notifying GE and the ACRS on the revised schedule.



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