

November 14, 1994

Mr. R. Patrick McDonald
Chairman, ALWR Utility
Steering Committee
Electric Power Research Institute
P.O. Box 10412
Palo Alto, California 94303

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am responding to your letter of October 25, 1994, to Mr. Russell in which you indicated concern regarding the application of the set of interrelated elements that defines the technical and regulatory aspects of the design-basis accident source term for licensing of the passive plants. Although we agree that some questions remain on the application of the revised source term, we have concluded that these questions will be resolved in the most appropriate and efficient way during the design-specific reviews of the passive plants.

The further application of the revised source term is reactor type and design specific and, therefore, will be most effectively addressed on a design-specific basis during the review of each passive light-water reactor design. This approach was demonstrated to be both effective and timely in the application of revised source term information during the System 80+ review. We are confident that it will be successful for both the AP600 and simplified boiling-water reactor reviews.

Finally, you may still feel that substantial issues relating to the application of the revised source term for passive plant designs could be addressed generically. The staff's view is that in this situation, generic activities are more difficult to review than design-specific activities. For example, issues of source term attenuation (e.g., plate-out, hold-up, etc.) are very design and sequence specific. A generic review would be administratively handled as a topical report and subject to fee recovery. Such a review would not supplant existing staff priorities to complete design certification reviews currently in progress and would be prioritized with other review work.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Associate Director
for Advanced Reactors and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NRR Mailroom	PDR	YT0940242	*see previous concurrence

OFC	TA:ADAR*	TECH ED*	LA:PDST*	SC:PDST*	PD:PDST*
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DATE	11/01/94	10/31/94	11/01/94	11/01/94	11/01/94
OFC	PD:TERB*	ADAR: NRR			
NAME	CLMiller	DCrutchfield			
DATE	11/03/94	11/14/94			

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