

OCT 21 1983

Mr. Paul W. Murrill  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Gulf States Utilities Company  
Post Office Box 2951  
Beaumont, TX 77704

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Dear Mr. Murrill:

Thank you for expressing your thoughts concerning accident source terms in your letter of September 26, 1983. This subject continues to be of high interest to the Commission, and to me personally.

As you know, the accident source term issue is the subject of intense study by the Accident Source Term Program Office, an office created for the expressed purpose of focusing NRC's efforts in this area, and to bring the issue to a timely resolution. At this time, the Program Office is concentrating on the development of an adequate analytical methodology and experimental data base as a basis for deriving estimates of radionuclide releases following various postulated severe reactor accidents.

Because of the importance of source term estimates to various regulatory decisions, as well as their high public visibility, it is essential that the product of the current reassessment have a sound scientific basis to ensure acceptance by the scientific community and the general public. An important element of the Program Office's schedule, therefore, is the thorough peer review, by individual experts as well as the broader scientific community represented by the American Physical Society. A final step in this process will be the opportunity for you, other members of the industry, and the public at large to review and comment on the Program Office's product prior to final publication.

Although we are striving to complete our technical evaluations by the mid-1984 date you mentioned, the completion of the peer review process is expected to extend to the end of 1984. I can assure you that the reassessment of accident source term will continue to be given a high priority by the NRC staff.

Sincerely,

B603270215 B60207  
PDR FOIA  
PLETTIN85-677 PDR

Original signed by:  
ROBERT B. MINOGUE

Robert B. Minogue, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

\*Please see previous concurrence page.

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