

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
WATER DEVELOPMENTSTATEMENT OF
NUNZIO J. PALLADINO, CHAIRMAN
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MAY 6, 1986

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF THE SOVIET ACCIDENT AT CHERNOBYL ON U.S. NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY PROGRAMS. WE ARE AWARE THAT AN ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT THE CHERNOBYL PLANT IN THE UKRAINE REGION OF RUSSIA. HOWEVER, DETAILS REGARDING THE ACCIDENT HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I REGRET ANY LOSS OF LIFE THAT OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT AT CHERNOBYL.

THE ADMINISTRATION AS YOU KNOW, HAS ESTABLISHED A TEAM HEADED BY EPA WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS U.S. AGENCIES TO STUDY THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT. THE NRC REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS TEAM IS MR. HAROLD DENTON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE RESULTS OF THE TEAM'S EFFORTS, AND ASSURE YOU THAT IF ANY LESSONS ARE LEARNED FROM THIS ACCIDENT THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO U.S. REACTORS, WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INFORMATION.

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OPENING REMARKS BEFORE I TURN TO MR. DENTON, WHO WILL PROVIDE A OPENING STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE SOVIET ACCIDENT AND HOW IT MAY RELATE TO U.S. NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY. HE WILL THEN RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE RELATING TO NRC'S

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REGULATION OF US NUCLEAR REACTORS AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SOVIET
ACCIDENT ON REACTOR SAFETY PROGRAMS.