



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

JUL 5 1967

Honorable John O. Pastore, Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Senator Pastore:

Enclosed for the information of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy is a Notice of Proposed Rule Making which would add to the proposed amendments to the Commission's regulations 10 CFR Part 50, "Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," which were published in the Federal Register for comment on August 16, 1966. This amendment would add a new Appendix A to Part 50 "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plant Construction Permits" to assist in the preparation of applications for construction permits for nuclear power plants.

The proposed change implements one of the key recommendations of the Regulatory Review Panel in which the Panel expressed the need for criteria to be used at the construction permit stage. As you know, work had been in progress on criteria development at the time of the Panel's recommendation. This effort was accelerated and led to the issuance of preliminary proposed criteria for public comment in Press Release H-252 dated November 22, 1965. The General Design Criteria included in the enclosed proposed amendment reflect comments and suggestions on the preliminary criteria received from industry, divisions within the Commission, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and the public.

The proposed criteria are intended to be used as guidance to an applicant in establishing the principal design criteria for a nuclear power plant as contemplated by the previously published revisions to Part 50. The framework within which the criteria are presented provides sufficient flexibility to permit applicants to establish design requirements using alternate and/or additional criteria. In particular, additional criteria will be needed for unusual sites and environmental conditions and for new or advanced types of reactors. In each case an applicant will be required to identify its principal design criteria and provide assurance that they encompass all those facility design features required in the interest of public health and safety.

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The provisions of the proposed amendments relating to the General Design Criteria are expected to be useful as interim guidance until such time as the Commission takes further action on them.

The notice of proposed rule making has been transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Sixty days for public comment are provided. Enclosed also is a copy of an announcement we plan to issue in the next few days on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Harold L. Price

Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Making
2. Public Announcement

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