

May 11, 2001

Dr. Charles G. Groat, Director  
U. S. Geological Survey  
National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Dr. Groat:

The Geological Survey has provided technical advice to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its predecessor the Atomic Energy Commission to aid in the siting of nuclear power plants since the beginning of the commercial power reactor program. The most recent instance of this process was the support Geologic Survey geologists, geophysicists and seismologists provided to the Commission staff in the review of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant geologic and seismic reevaluation program, which was completed in 1989. Mr. James F. Devine of the Geologic Survey has been our point of contact for technical advice with respect to siting nuclear power plants.

The Commission has recently received indications from the nuclear power industry that power generation companies are seriously considering applying for nuclear power plant early site permits. We expect that the first application may be received late in fiscal year 2002. In preparation for this anticipated work, we would like to reestablish the interagency agreement between the Commission and the Geological Survey for technical support and advice in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, seismology and hydrology with respect to these future siting applications. The previous interagency agreement between the NRC and the Geological Survey provided an over arching framework under which the NRC issued tasking requests for site specific technical support and advice. Although the issues to be addressed by the NRC in granting a site permit may vary for each site, examples of areas where we may request advice and technical support from the Geological Survey include the determination or characterization of regional tectonics, seismogenic sources, maximum earthquake magnitude, paleoseismicity, ground water flow paths, and the interpretation of geophysical data. Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether the Geologic Survey can, as in the past, provide technical support and advice to us in the performance of siting reviews. If this is acceptable to you, I ask that the appropriate member of your organization contact Mr. Eugene Imbro, Chief of the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to begin formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding. His telephone number is 301-415-3288 and his e-mail address is EXI@NRC.GOV. Thank you in advance for your consideration of support to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Collins, Director */RA/*  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dr. Charles G. Groat, Director  
 U. S. Geological Survey  
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Samuel J. Collins, Director  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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