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dated 11/20/57  
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Dr. Lothar v. Erichsen  
Institute of Physical Chemistry  
The University of Bonn  
Wegelerstrasse 12  
Bonn, Germany

Dear Mr. Erichsen:

C. F.

In your letter of October 25 regarding information on criteria used in judging the acceptability of reactor sites, I am pleased to note, in your fourth paragraph, that you recognize one basic fact with respect to this problem; namely, that choice of a site for a reactor cannot be made independently of the characteristics of the reactor facility to be located there.

Since these two questions are inseparable, it is necessary to analyze and evaluate the plans and characteristics for the reactor at the time of and along with evaluation of the proposed site. Thus, it becomes almost impossible to say: here are the standards which must be met or the criteria which must be satisfied if any particular site is to be chosen for a reactor location. If compromise must be made on one feature, added safeguards can often be incorporated in other features to compensate. Thus, if there is less isolation distance than one would desire, compensation can be provided by more than usual shielding and adequacy of containment.

More specifically, in response to your request, we do not have at present guides, criteria or standards on site selection which are ready for publication. We do recognize that further work needs to be done on this problem and have exerted some efforts in this direction but as yet, we do not have material ready for distribution.

I am pleased to know of your interest in this problem and hope that opportunity may arise later for our further discussion of site selection.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford K. Beck  
Scientific Advisor to the Director  
Division of Civilian Application

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John M. Finan

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These three persons are in charge of reactor instrumentation and control development programs at their respective organizations. Mr. Epler, particularly, has made significant contributions leading to the safe operation of nuclear reactors.

We appreciate your calling our attention to the activities of the American Standards Association in the nuclear energy field and we wish the Association every success.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by  
Clark D. Goodman

W. Kenneth Davis, Director  
Division of Reactor Development

CC: Harold Price, Div of Civ Application