

10/13/58

Paul F. Foster, General Manager

OCT 13 1958

H. L. Price, Director
Division of Licensing and Regulation

REACTOR SITE CRITERIA

The GE Vallecitos reactor is in an isolated area. It is true that it is near a public road, but this was not considered too important because roads can be closed in an emergency. This is a licensed reactor and has been operating for over a year.

The site for the Shippingport reactor was selected prior to the 1954 Act and therefore prior to the establishment of the statutory Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. It is my understanding that the site selection was approved by the previous Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Dr. McCullough is out of town today but I will talk to him on his return Wednesday. It is my understanding that the steel mill is about a mile away. I believe the Committee considers that workers in industrial plants, being under supervision, can be evacuated in case of emergency much more easily than residential population. This is not a licensed reactor, but the staff participated in the safeguards review at the time of operation.

Similarly, the Santa Susana reactor is not a licensed reactor. I understand that it is in a fairly isolated area. The site was reviewed by the Committee and, here again, I would like to talk to Dr. McCullough before attempting a full report. I feel sure that in this case also the existence of a highway, even a heavily traveled one, was not regarded as significant as residential population.

In the case of Elk River, I believe there are residences about a quarter of a mile from the reactor. The area under the control of the Cooperative is much smaller than in the other cases and, of course, it is immediately adjacent to the town of Elk River. In that case the Committee did say that as a matter of policy it considers it not desirable to locate a nuclear reactor of this power level so close to a growing community. Even so, the Committee concluded that, assuming suitable containment and the acquisition of additional state-owned land, a power reactor of this general type and size may be operated at this site without undue hazard to the public and its property.

*orig. hand carried to H.M. by H.L.P.
12:15 P.M. - 10/13/58
H.M.*

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Paul F. Foster, General Manager

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I am sure both the Commission and the Committee have avoided attempting to lay down any hard and fast rules governing exclusion distance because necessary distance can vary so much depending on other factors relating to the design and operation of the facility.

The general subject of safeguards criteria is on the agenda for discussion at the meeting of the Advisory Committee later this week.

I believe it is fair to say that generally speaking the Committee and the staff have tried to apply a rough criteria of seeking reasonable assurance that combinations of distance, containment and other factors will prevent undue exposure to people off-site in the event of a really credible accident. I think based on our experience we and the Committee could probably take another look at this concept of the "maximum credible accident."

OFFICE ▶	DI&R					
SURNAME ▶	HLPrice/mm					
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