~~Mr. Newell~~
~~H. Price~~
File

MAY 20 1959

Memorandum For: Those Listed Below

Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING POSSIBLE REGULATORY AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING SAFETY CRITERIA FOR REACTOR SITES

Attached for your information is an announcement concerning a possible regulatory amendment establishing safety criteria for reactor sites.

The notice of proposed rule making will be filed with the Federal Register on Friday, May 22. We plan to distribute the announcement on that day for immediate use by the news media.

Morse Salisbury, Director
Division of Information Services

Attachment

Addressees:
John A. McCone, Chairman
Willard F. Libby, Commissioner
Harold S. Vance, Commissioner
John S. Graham, Commissioner
John F. Floberg, Commissioner
A. R. Luedecke, General Manager (via R. E. Donovan & H. S. Traynor)

cc: Harold Price, L&R, attn: John Newell
Woodford McCool, GMS
Loren Olson, GC
Frank Pittman, RD

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AEC CONSIDERING REGULATORY AMENDMENT
ESTABLISHING SAFETY CRITERIA FOR REACTOR SITES

The Atomic Energy Commission is publishing in the Federal Register for public comment a general statement of safety factors considered by the Commission in its evaluation of proposed sites for nuclear power and testing reactors.

The statement is being published in connection with the Commission's consideration of a possible amendment to its regulations which would add a section describing the safety factors relating to a proposed site which bear on the Commission's decision to issue or refuse a construction permit.

Important considerations in site evaluation are the exclusion distance - the area around the reactor which will be under the reactor owner's complete control; the population density of surrounding areas; the area's meteorology - variations in temperature, moisture and winds; the area's earthquake history; and the hydrology and geology of the area - surface water drainage, the presence and movement of underground waters, the permeability and depth of the soils, and their capacities to remove and retain reactor effluents.

These factors are discussed individually in the published statement, but only a general statement is possible at this time concerning criteria which must be met to establish acceptability of a proposed reactor site. Further work looking toward a more precise description of safety factors is being done by the Commission in consultation with its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Meanwhile, the statement is believed to represent a first step toward development and publication of complete site criteria.

(more)

The text of the statement will be published in the Federal Register on May 23, 1959. Copies are available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D. C. Written comments or suggestions should be sent within 30 days to Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D. C., Attention Director, Division of Licensing and Regulation.

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