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R. H. HUTCHESON, M. D.
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
NASHVILLE 3

June 5, 1959

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Mr. Harold L. Price, Director
Division of Licensing and Regulation
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Price:

In response to your invitation for comments relative to proposed rule making regarding criteria for nuclear reactor site selection, the following comments are offered. First, however, may I say that formalization of such criteria seems most desirable.

As an initial consideration before evaluating any site for a nuclear reactor, it would seem desirable to first determine in accordance with the best available information the probability of an unplanned release of radioactivity and the characteristics and magnitude of such a release, and secondly to establish the magnitude and characteristics of planned releases, if any, from the reactor under consideration. This is suggested, not that such factors have been or would be overlooked in site selection, but rather that setting them apart as a separate description of the inherent risk would seem to establish a tangible and reasonable starting point for further considerations involved in site selection.

Item "c" (Population Density in Surrounding Areas) and "f" (Hydrology and Geology) involve not only considerations of the past and present conditions but also of future conditions during the life of a reactor, therefore, it is suggested that some mechanism be provided in the proposed rules which will utilize the best information as to the likely trend of population density and use of land and water at a proposed site. It is believed that in many instances official agencies below the Federal level can provide the most reliable estimate of these future conditions and are also in a position to influence conditions of the future to conform to those used as the basis of site selection.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Hutcheson, M.D.
Commissioner

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Comments
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