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

Dear Mr. Price:

We have your letter of May 26, 1959, transmitting a copy of a notice of proposed rule making by the Atomic Energy Commission in connection with reactor siting criteria.

We agree, in general, with the idea of making these rules, since there has been some chaos because of the lack of them. The only matter we see which might cause a serious hardship is covered in Paragraph c "Population Density in Surrounding Areas," in which it is suggested that large reactors should be 10-20 miles from large cities.

This may give a sense of security, but the point requires perhaps a little more careful review, because the economics of nuclear power are going to be adversely affected by such a rule. One of the advantages of nuclear power plants which might overcome somewhat higher generating costs than obtained from combustible fuel-fired plants is that the nuclear plant might be located closer to load centers because of its lack of dependence on railroad shipment of coal. The requirement of isolation might work against this advantage.

Yours very truly,

C. T. Chave,
Chief Engineer,
Nuclear Projects.

Copies To Pres. Doc. Rm. & R. Lauenstein

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