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July 16, 1959

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PROPOSED RULE MAKING ON REACTOR SITE CRITERIA

SYMBOL: BAO:GBS

Your memorandum of June 17, 1959, requested comments on the proposed Federal Register regulation on reactor site evaluation.

The proposed rule is very general and does not provide reactor planners with anything more specific than is now available. It does provide general statements about the factors which are taken into consideration for approval of site locations. We hope that it will be possible ultimately to supplement these general statements with more specific information.

A few specific remarks related to the proposed rule are offered for your consideration:

1. There is no mention of ordinary rainfall among the factors to be considered. While this is more likely to be a factor associated with costly contamination, it probably should be mentioned in the general statement on Meteorological Considerations.
2. We are somewhat surprised that the figure of 10-20 miles is used for separation between large reactors and large cities. If this distance is to the center of the city, the population density outside the exclusion area will rarely be small. For a non-contained accident, the city problem is indeed very severe. We, therefore, believe that it is more important to stress the importance of major population centers.

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