

DEC 27 1960

Dear Mr. Holifield:

By correspondence from Mr. James T. Ramsey dated November 15, 1960, the Commission was requested to review and comment on a letter dated November 9, 1960, that had been sent to you by Mr. Oliver Townsend of the New York State Office of Atomic Development. Mr. Townsend proposed that the JCAE hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations such as power generating stations, process heat reactors and nuclear port facilities.

The Commission plans to meet with its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards early in January 1961, to discuss a possible set of criteria for siting power and test reactors which has been under development for some time. Following that meeting we hope to be in position to publish proposed criteria for public comment.

Assuming that the Commission is able to publish proposed criteria in the fairly near future, the Joint Committee should then be in a better position to determine the desirability of a public hearing. As far as the Commission is concerned, we would welcome a Joint Committee hearing at any time on siting problems and policies.

Sincerely yours,

c.c.: Chairman (2)
OCL (2)
GM (1)
AGMR&S (1)
YELLOW RECORD - L&R Acting Chairman

(SIGNED) ROBERT E. WILSON

The Honorable Chet Holifield
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

*Ramsey letter 11/15
Townsend letter
in State Paper R-2/17
C/14*

Revised - H St. 12/22/60

OFFICE ▶	AGMR&S	AGM	DGM	GM
SURNAME ▶	<i>W.F. Flinn</i> W.F. FLINN:dhk		<i>R.E. Wilson</i>	
DATE ▶	12/22/60		11/22	



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Holifield:

By correspondence from Mr. James T. Ramey dated November 15, 1960, the Commission was requested to review and comment on a letter dated November 9, 1960, that had been sent to you by Mr. Oliver Townsend of the New York State Office of Atomic Development. Mr. Townsend proposed that the JCAE hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations such as power generating stations, process heat reactors and nuclear port facilities.

The Commission plans to meet with its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards early in January, 1961, to discuss a possible set of criteria for siting power and test reactors which has been under development for some time. Following that meeting we hope to be in position to publish proposed criteria for public comment.

We expect to discuss our problems with respect to site criteria during our testimony at the Section 202 hearings early in 1961. Should the subject of reactor siting not be covered completely at those hearings we would hope that the Joint Committee would devote a special hearing to it.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

The Honorable Chet Holifield
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Per Mr. Trenneman,
22-12-60

We would suggest that the Joint Committee wait until after we have discussed site criteria with the ACRS and have determined proposed criteria to be published for public comment. Upon reviewing this criteria the Joint Committee should then be in a better position to determine the desirability of a public hearing. Please inform the Joint Committee, however, that the Commission has no objection to holding a hearing on this subject at any time.

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Dear Mr. Hollifield:

By correspondence from Mr. James T. Kasey dated November 15, 1960, the Commission was requested to review and comment on a letter dated November 9, 1960, that had been sent to you by Mr. Oliver Townsend of the New York State Office of Atomic Development. Mr. Townsend proposed that the JSAE hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations such as power generating stations, process heat reactors and nuclear port facilities.

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Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

cc: WFF:inan
OCL - 2 cys
Chrm. - 2 cys
GM

OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE
Revised: ACMR&S	WFF:inan/1a	12/19/60
AGM		12/9/60
DGM		12/ /60
GM		12/18/60

Dear Mr. Hollifield:

By correspondence from Mr. James T. Ramey dated November 15, 1960, the Commission was requested to review and comment on a letter dated November 9, 1960, that had been sent to you by Mr. Oliver Townsend of the New York State Office of Atomic Development. Mr. Townsend proposed that the NYS&D hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations such as power generating stations, process heat reactors and nuclear port facilities.

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Chairman

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Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

bcc: WNF:Finan
OCD - 2 cys
Chrm - 2 cys
GM

*Revised per at Commission
meeting 16.12.60*

*Read by Finan
to R. Downer
over the phone*

OFFICE	Revised: ACMERS	AGM	DGM	GM	Comp. L.
SURNAME	Hollifield				
DATE	12/19/60 11 Street	12/ /60	12/ /60	12/ /60	12.19.60

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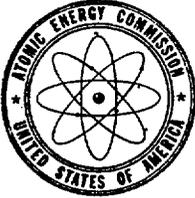
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at
holding ~~the~~ the Section 202 Hearings
early in 1961. ~~It is not clear~~ the Joint
Committee ~~shows~~ the output of meetings
taking not in completely correct or those

Hearings are more ~~substantive~~ helpful than
the Joint Committee ~~was~~ ~~made~~ ~~it~~
despite a special hearing to it *

Joint years

~~Chair~~



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hollifield:

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As you know, the Commission has been working for some time to make more definitive the criteria used in evaluating the suitability of sites proposed for major reactor installations. Proposed criteria published for public comment in May 1959 provoked widespread and diverse reactions and suggestions. Many of those who commented were opposed to the issuance of a regulation establishing site criteria but the reasons for that opposition were quite heterogeneous. It seems clear that many in the industry, while pressing for criteria that would define the conditions of acceptability for proposed reactor sites, do not wish to have the criteria established in formal Commission regulations.

The view expressed by Mr. Townsend is one of many that have been considered in AEC efforts to resolve the complex problem of establishing definitive criteria for the siting of major reactor installations. We advised the Joint Committee on November 30, 1960, in a letter from Commissioner Olson to Mr. Ramey, "We believe that, in principle, the explicit statement of such criteria is highly desirable. a proposed regulation for the establishment of explicit criteria for the selection of power and test reactor sites is in process, and we hope that such a regulation can be published for public comment in the near future."

Under the existing circumstances it would seem to us that a special JCAE hearing on site criteria early in 1961 would be untimely, since the Commission would be soliciting public comment on a regulation dealing with the subject. On the other hand, we expect to discuss our problems with

Mr. Holifield

- 2 -

site criteria during our testimony at one or more of the regularly scheduled JCAE hearings, for example, during the Section 202 hearings. We also anticipate that industry representatives and state officers such as Mr. Townsend, among others, will use those hearings as an opportunity to testify regarding reactor siting matters. Depending upon the outcome of the Commission's latest efforts to establish generally applicable criteria and developments in early JCAE hearings, a special hearing on reactor siting problems may or may not appear to be desirable and timely later on in 1961.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

The Honorable Chet Holifield
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

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Chairman

The Honorable Chet Holifield
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

OFFICE ▶	I&R	AGMRS	AGM	DGM	GM	CHAIRMAN	Cong. L.
SURNAME ▶	HL Price	Finan	JRM	RS PJ	L		
DATE ▶	12/13/60	12/13/60	12/13/60	12/13/60	12/14/60	12/ /60	12/13/60

AN DUE 12/8

Nov. 28

Mr. Price:

Mr. Tremmel from Comm. Wilson's office called about the status of the attached. I checked with Mr. DiNunno and he says he will have a draft reply ready by Wednesday. Mr. Tremmel requested that you call him on Ext. 5715.

Helen McC.

Jm #5316

MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-93 (Rev. May 14, 1947)		See me about this. Note and return.	For conc. se. For signature.	For action. For information.
TO (Name and unit) <i>C. K. Dick</i>	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS <i>Ltr to Roney (Holifield)</i>		
TO (Name and unit) <i>H. Price</i>	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS <i>Done 12/8</i>		
TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS <i>Handcarried 12-12-60 to Jm mail room</i>		
FROM (Name and unit) <i>D. Harro</i>	REMARKS	<i>A proposed letter in reply to a request from the JCS staff (Roney) is attached for your review & comment</i>		
PHONE NO.	DATE <i>12/1/60</i>			

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX.
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JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.
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HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
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HENRY DWORSHAK, IDAHO
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WILLIAM H. BATES, MASS.
JACK WESTLAND, WASH.

Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

November 15, 1960

Mr. John A. McCone
Chairman
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCone:

Congressman Holifield has asked me to forward to you a copy of a letter dated November 9, 1960, to him from Oliver Townsend, Director of the State of New York, Office of Atomic Development, concerning public hearings by the Joint Committee in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations. Three copies of the letter are enclosed for the information of the Commission.

Congressman Holifield has requested that the Commission review the contents of this letter and forward comments to the Joint Committee by December 12, 1960.

Sincerely yours,



James T. Ramey
Executive Director

Enclosure:
3 cys ltr dtd 11/9/60

State of New York
Executive Department
Office of Atomic Development

P.O. Box 7036

November 9, 1960

Hon. Chet Holifield
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
United States Congress
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Representative Holifield:

In the expectation that you will be the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in the next Congress, this is respectfully to propose that the Committee hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of such major atomic energy installations as power generating stations, process heat reactors, and nuclear port facilities. Such a national policy, whether formulated by legislation or by the Federal Radiation Council or the Atomic Energy Commission, would be designed to serve as a guide to the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and any other groups charged with the responsibility of evaluating specific sites proposed for atomic installations. The policy would presumably take into account both the desirability of encouraging development and the need for protecting health and safety.

This suggestion is put forward because, in the absence of a clear national policy, a considerable amount of apparently needless effort is being expended to launch major new atomic energy projects only to have the projects disapproved because of previously unknown safeguards considerations.

In New York State the lack of a clear national policy on siting has resulted in the recent past in considerable unproductive effort being expended with regard to a proposal that a small atomic power plant be built by the Commission to serve the City of Jamestown (where the economic feasibility of alternate sites is now being studied), a proposal that a 10,000 kw barge-mounted atomic power plant be utilized and exhibited at the forthcoming New York World's Fair (a project abandoned because of safeguards considerations), and an investigation

(now terminated) to find within the State an acceptable site for the process heat reactor disapproved on safety grounds for installation at Point Loma, California. The lack of a clear siting policy is also currently complicating consideration of the Port of New York as a service port for the nuclear ship Savannah. There are other examples in other parts of the country which can be cited, and which are undoubtedly familiar to you, illustrating the difficulties imposed on atomic development by existing ambiguities in atomic site criteria and policy.

We realize that to establish a clear national policy on siting at this point runs the risk of producing a policy that is overly conservative and therefore unduly inhibiting. It is our opinion, however, that this risk is no greater, and probably less, than the risk inherent in a continuation of the present situation, which, in addition to its other effects, appears to be inviting policy to be set by the courts.

As you know, a tentative effort to arrive at a national policy such as that suggested here was made by the publication in May, 1959, in the Federal Register, of proposed reactor site criteria by the Atomic Energy Commission. In the absence of a publicly declared policy, these proposed criteria, particularly their more conservative features, may very well become definitive policy without the benefit of exhaustive public discussion and examination.

It may be that the best route to an agreed upon national policy would be to evaluate, modify and adopt these proposed criteria. We would expect, however, that whatever mechanism is used to arrive at a policy, it should involve, and probably at an early stage, public hearings by the Joint Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Oliver Townsend
Director

cc: Senator Clinton P. Anderson
James T. Ramey

Draft 2
DKMunno:bh
12/5/60

Dear Mr. Holifield:

The Commission was requested by correspondence from J. T. Ramey dated November 15, 1950 to review and comment on a letter dated November 9, 1960, that had been sent to you by O. Townsend of the New York State Office of Atomic Development. Mr. Townsend proposed that the JCAE hold public hearings in 1961 on the desirability of adopting a national policy on the safe siting of major atomic energy installations such as power generating stations, process heat reactors and nuclear port facilities. His suggestion was prompted by difficulties encountered by various planners of reactor projects within the state. Projects cited included the reactor proposed at Jamestown, N. Y., the barge mounted reactor proposed for the forthcoming World's Fair, a process heat reactor site study, and the possible use of the Port of New York as a service port for the Savannah.

The approach Mr. Townsend suggests to resolution of the problem of reactor siting criteria is to evaluate, modify and adopt the criteria that the Commission had published for comment in May, 1959 in the Federal Register.

As you know the Commission has been working for some time to make more definitive the criteria to be used in evaluating the suitability of sites proposed for reactor installation. The efforts represented by those criteria published for comment in May 1959 met with widespread and diverse comment from the nuclear community. Many of those who commented

were opposed to the proposed regulation but the reasons for this opposition were quite heterogeneous. It would appear that many in the industry, while pressing for criteria that would define the conditions of acceptability for proposed reactor sites, have little desire to be bound within the framework of regulations.

The view expressed by Mr. Townsend is one of many that have been considered in AEC efforts during the past year to resolve the complex problem of establishing definitive criteria for the siting of reactor installations. Our efforts have culminated in another set of criteria that we plan to publish for public comment in the Federal Register within the next few days. These proposed criteria are currently being reviewed by the Commission. Upon completion of this review, copies together with a staff analysis will be forwarded to the JCAE for information.

It is believed that the impending action by the Commission should afford opportunity to all those who are interested in reactor siting criteria, such as Mr. Townsend, to express their views. Such comments will be given due consideration before fixing site criteria by regulation.

Under the circumstances, I believe that considerations for public congressional hearings on this subject should be withheld until the JCAE has reviewed the proposed criteria, the public is afforded the opportunity to comment and the Commission can reconcile to the extent possible the different views that may be expressed.