

May 11, 1961

Mr. D. C. Lefebvre  
French Power Bureau  
Dupont Circle Building  
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lefebvre:

You inquired in your letter of May 5, 1961, whether the power levels indicated in the table on the last page of our proposed site criteria are for a single reactor or for an entire nuclear installation which may include several reactors. Other questions on our policies with respect to multi-unit construction at a single site are also raised.

The proposed criteria to which you refer are intended to apply only to the choice of sites for single reactors. We have not yet published any general policies or procedures relating to the construction of more than one reactor at the same place. In a few cases we have locations where more than one reactor has been approved and we are considering the formulation of a general policy on this subject. To date, in each instance, decisions have been made on a case by case basis.

The particular question on separation distance between individual units in a multi-unit installation can be approached in several different ways. There should be a general over-riding requirement that arrangements should be so made that an accident in one reactor would not initiate an accident in other reactors. Further, the owner must decide in advance, based on his particular situation, whether or not it will be required that unaffected reactors continue operation should any one reactor experience an accident. If the remaining reactors must continue operation, then they must be sufficiently removed or protected from each other to permit continued habitation should an accident in any one occur. On the other hand, if continued operation were not necessary, then all plants may be shutdown, if a serious accident in any one should occur, and all operators would be evacuated 'by the quickest route'. In this case, separation distances may be substantially less than in the former case.

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D. C. Lefebvre

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We have not yet considered the location of two large reactors in the same building, but I believe that such a plan could not be ruled out a priori in advance.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you at some convenient time, if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford K. Beck  
Assistant Director  
Facilities Licensing  
Division of Licensing and  
Regulation

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