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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PROSPECTIVE IAEA-ISO (SUBCOMMITTEE) MEETING ON REACTOR SITING

Note by the Acting Director of Regulation

1. The attached copies of letters from Mr. H. de Laboulaye, Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Operations, and Mr. Milan Csredkar, Acting Director, Division of Reactors, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria, to Dr. Clifford K. Beck and Dr. Beck's reply to Mr. Pierre Balligand (Mr. de Laboulaye's successor) summarize the discussions which have been held between the Agency and the Working Party on Reactor Siting of the International Standards Organization, of which Dr. Beck is Chairman, on the possibility of holding a small conference late this fall on the subject of reactor siting and related problems. The conference would be attended by invited experts from all countries known to have active work in progress in this field.

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2. At least four or five countries are now known to be giving serious study to the development of systematic procedures for selection of sites for reactor facilities. It would appear to be an auspicious time for those persons who are carrying forward these studies to get together for discussion and exchange of ideas if this conference develops according to the plans now being discussed. It is presently anticipated that Dr. Beck, and perhaps other members of the Commission staff, would participate in the conference.

H. L. Price

Acting Director of
Regulation

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ENCLOSURE I

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
VIENNA 1, KAERNTNERING, AUSTRIA

March 17, 1961

Dear Dr. Beck,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of Working Party No. 1 of the ISO Sub-Committee on Reactor Safety (ISO/TC 85/SC 3). I would, however, like you to consider this letter merely as an informal invitation to preliminary comments.

You are aware that our Agency is planning to hold during the second half of 1961 (probably in September or October) a panel on the subject of Reactor Siting. This activity was approved by our last General Conference as constituting one of the most desirable activities to be initiated in 1961.

You, on your part, chaired a few days ago a very successful ISO working party in which, at your invitation, Dr. Osredkar from our staff participated.

We do not know how much time and effort the International Standards Organization intends to devote to this important subject of Reactor Siting, and whether they feel that the time has come for international standards to be established in this domain, but we do know that practical solutions to this problem are urgently required in a number of our Member States. What they are principally expecting from us at this juncture is some guidance as to the methods to be followed and criteria to be adopted when evaluating the safety of a reactor site; whereas, in regard to the exact figures to be put on such parameters as exposure limits, apparently they may not be prepared at this stage to enter into international agreements and may wish as a first step to rely on nationally, or maybe regionally, established standards.

It is for the purpose of discussing such methods and criteria that the Director General of the IAEA will be calling this fall a panel of some fifteen experts to discuss the matter further and I would like in this connection to tell you that we would be quite happy if your ISO working group could find a way to join us in this meeting. ISO may even wish to consider the possibility of co-sponsoring our panel, in which case our financial regulations provide for a share of the costs involved.

I would also like to inform you that the Director General is considering inviting participation of our sister organization, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), because of their particular interest in the meteorological aspects of nuclear energy. Your informal views on this idea would also be welcome.

I thank you again for all the support you have been providing recently to our Agency, in particular with regard to your very fruitful participation in the hazards evaluation of the Petten reactor and of the Ljubljana site evaluation.

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I request you to be kind enough to send your answer to this letter to my successor Mr. Pierre Balligand who will take up his duties on 3 April and is already briefed on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

/s/

H. de Laboulaye
Deputy Director General
Department of Technical
Operations

Dr. Clifford K. Beck
Assistant Director
Nuclear Facilities Safety
Division of Licensing and Regulation
USAEC
Washington 25, D. C.
U. S. A.

ENCLOSURE II

EXTRACT

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
Vienna 1, Aachenring, Austria

20 March 1961

Dear Dr. Beck,

I have reported to the Director General and our Deputy Director General on the meeting of the ISO Working Party, which was held in London on 7 March, and I suggested that the idea which originated from this meeting regarding co-sponsoring a joint panel on siting, in the latter part of this year, be accepted. This suggestion was very well received and, as you will probably be informed very shortly by a letter from the Director General, the conclusion was reached that this Panel should be held. This, I think, prepares the necessary ground for the implementation of our mutual intentions.

During the discussions in our Agency about other organizations which might be interested in siting problems, the suggestion was made that the World Meteorological Organization could also play quite an important role in the organization of the Panel. I would greatly appreciate your opinion on this point.

As soon as we will have had time to discuss further in the Agency the problem of siting and harbour evaluation, I intend to compile a tentative list of specific topics to be discussed at our Panel, in accordance with what I suggested to you at our meeting in London.

Towards the middle of April, together with Mr. Parker and Mr. Roberts from the Agency, I shall be going to Copenhagen to exchange ideas on harbour evaluation. I shall inform you later of the results of these discussions.

.....
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Yours sincerely,

s/ Milan Osredkar
Acting Director
Division of Reactors

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ENCLOSURE III

May 22, 1961

Mr. Pierre Colligand
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna 1, Austerlitz, Austria.

Dear Mr. Colligand:

This is in reply to letters of March 17 and March 20, 1961, which were received from Mr. DeLaboulaye and Mr. Osredkar respectively, on the subject of joint IAO-IAEA sponsorship of a small conference on Reactor Siting and related problems.

As matters now stand, both the Agency and the Working Party #1 of the IAO Subcommittee on Reactor Safety (ISO/TC 85/Sc3) have independently arrived at the conclusion that a small invited participants' conference on Reactor Siting would be the next appropriate step in the development of this important field of technology. The Agency has tentatively planned to sponsor a meeting this Fall on this subject. The Working Party, at its London meeting in March, concluded that a conference late this year on this subject, attended by selected people who would be able to make technical contributions, would be desirable. As was discussed between the writer and Mr. Osredkar, and has now been formally proposed in the letters to Mr. DeLaboulaye and Mr. Osredkar, it would appear appropriate for the IAO Working Party and the Agency to combine their efforts for sponsoring a joint conference on Reactor Siting.

I have explored this possibility with American representatives of the IAO and they in turn have contacted the central headquarters. The information I have received to date indicates: (a) that joint IAO Working Party-Agency sponsorship of a conference on Reactor Siting would be appropriate and commendable; (b) that, from tentative information received thus far, no financial assistance would be available from the IAO organization for this meeting. Further, there would be no objection whatever to the participation of the world meteorological organization and any others who could make a specific contribution to this meeting.

Our situation, then, is that we, in the IAO Working Party, would be pleased to participate and assist the Agency in any way possible in developing plans for a suitably arranged conference in the Fall of 1961 on Site selection for reactors and related problems, but would not be in a position to make financial contribution to the support of the meeting.

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The chief problems to be resolved would be establishing the scope and general coverage of the meeting, deciding on persons who would be invited, agreeing on the time and place of the meeting, and securing a favorable response from the persons invited.

As discussed briefly by the writer and Mr. Osredkar, the meeting might be planned for three days with two days devoted to the problems of site selection for land-based reactors, with papers dealing with component parts of the problem including meteorological and hydrological problems, containment, etc., and the third day might be devoted to the specialized problems of harbor evaluations for nuclear ship usage and questions relating thereto.

Late September is the earliest possible time a group of 25 or so selected persons could possibly be assembled. It might have to be even later. Suggestions for persons can await our further consideration about over-all plans for the meeting.

I would be pleased to hear further from you on how this project can best be implemented and in what ways I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford K. Beck
Chairman
Subcommittee ISO/TC 95/Sc3