

H. L. Price, Director
Division of Licensing & Regulation

April 7, 1959

C. Rogers McCullough, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF PROPOSED SITE CRITERIA

In your letter of March 19, 1959, you invited comment upon your Preliminary Draft of Proposed Site Criteria which was prepared subsequent to the March meeting of the ACRS. It is the understanding of the Committee that you desire to publish an interim statement on site criteria in order to expedite your Division's carrying out its responsibilities.

Our Environmental Subcommittee feels that the proposed site criteria, when reviewed in the light of this interim purpose, comprise a reasonably fair, but generalized, description of the major factors which are now considered in a site review. If properly interpreted, the criteria will not jeopardize the health and safety of the public.

It is the Committee's hope and expectation that a more rational basis for evaluating reactors and their sites will be developed in the future. This is an exceedingly complex problem, but there are several promising approaches toward a synthesizing viewpoint which are under exploration within the Committee.

As you are aware, the Committee expects to carry on further discussion of these matters during its April meeting. Subsequent to this meeting the ACRS may have further comments.

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health and safety of the public. The applicant should also propose an alternate site and supply sufficient information for its evaluation in case the Commission finds the first site unsuitable.

In addition to the information pertinent to the site, the applicant should state the type of reactor proposed, power level, type of operation and the significant features of the reactor which relates it to an accepted type or which establish the approximate potential damage which could occur from an accident to the reactor as compared to the damage that could be expected from an accident in an accepted type.

The information presented regarding the site need not be precise but should be accurate to approximately plus or minus 10 per cent in the case of population density and in all cases should be sufficient to give a good general understanding of the character of the environment. In considering the potential damage which could result from a reactor accident the general features of the proposed reactor system need be described only to the detail required to give the estimated release of fission products under accident conditions from the outermost enclosure as compared with releases which might occur from an accepted reactor installation. Any significant features of the reactor affecting the radiation doses which might be given people in the surroundings in case of accident, such as shielding, low leakage rates, air cleaning systems, etc., should be described.

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