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May 26, 1960

Mr. A. R. Luedecke
General Manager
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Luedecke:

This is in reply to your letter of May 20, 1960. I shall be glad to discuss administrative and support problems of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards with Mr. Finan as soon as a meeting can be arranged. I am planning to be in Washington June 1 and am suggesting to Mr. Finan that we meet then.

In regard to the site criteria project, the Environmental Subcommittee and the ACRS as a whole have been considering the problem for over a year. At an Environmental Subcommittee meeting on April 8, 1960, the latest draft of preliminary criteria for sites for certain types of reactors was discussed. Dr. C. K. Beck was present during the afternoon session, heard the discussion and was given a copy of the rough draft.

At the last meeting of the ACRS May 5-7, 1960 Dr. C. K. Beck furnished the Committee with a draft of site criteria as proposed by the Hazards Evaluation Branch, together with the table showing how certain existing reactors compared using these criteria. There was some discussion of the HEB criteria and the Environmental Subcommittee criteria at the ACRS meeting. There are considerable similarities in the approaches for the proposed criteria but also certain differences.

From your letter it may be inferred that manpower is available to study various aspects of these criteria and make whatever calculations are necessary. There is sufficient basic understanding by members of HEB and the ACRS to guide such studies now. If a working group could be formed the project could be started immediately. The computations

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required are comparisons of various sites on the basis of meteorology, radioactivity releases and actual population distributions. Consideration would also be given to ground water supply and use, stream flows and their use, highways and roads where these factors are applicable. The ACRS will cooperate fully.

The Environmental Subcommittee is planning a meeting within the next two weeks to consider site criteria in further detail. Their recommendations will be referred to the full Committee and should be available soon thereafter. However, a study group does not need to wait for these actions.

The ACRS believes that general site criteria might be possible at this time. However, it realizes the difficulty of arriving at any rigid quantitative criteria. Although there are several seemingly promising approaches the Committee is unwilling to recommend criteria until sufficient study, including some comparative computed values, has been given to establish that they provide adequate protection for the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by J.B.Graham

Leslie Silverman
Chairman

cc: W. F. Finan/OGM
bc: L. Silverman/Harvard

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