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William P. Gammill, Chief, Site Analysis Branch, L
THRU: J. C. Stepp, Section Leader, Geology, Seismology, and
Foundation Engineering

PROBABILITY OF EQUALLING OR EXCEEDING 0.15g AT THE INDIAN POINT SITE

We have completed an evaluation of the probability that 0.15g will be equalled or exceeded at the Indian Point site. Our best estimate is of the order of 10^{-4} per year.

Seth M. Coplan, Seismologist
Geology and Seismology Section
Site Analysis Branch
Directorate of Licensing

Renner B. Hofman, Seismologist
Geology and Seismology Section
Site Analysis Branch
Directorate of Licensing

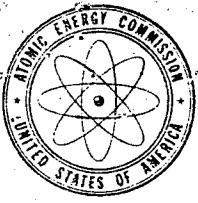
Enclosure:

Indian Point Probability
Computation

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SURNAME ➤	SMCoplan;jab	RBHofman	JStepp		
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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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INDIAN POINT PROBABILITY COMPUTATION

0.15g Exceedence:

From Coulter, Waldron Devine (1973) $0.15g \rightarrow I = 7.3$

From Brazeé (1972) Epicentral area of $I = 7.3$ earthquake is
 $800 \text{ mi}^2 \approx 2100 \text{ km}^2$

1. From Isacks and Oliver (1964)

$$\log N = 1.33 - 0.6I \text{ per year for a } 20,000 \text{ km}^2 \text{ area}$$

$$N_{7.3} = 8.9 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year} - 20,000 \text{ km}^2$$

$$\text{or } N'_{7.3} = \frac{2100}{20,000} 8.9 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year at the site}$$

$$\text{or } P_{0.15g} \approx 9 \times 10^{-5} / \text{year}$$

2. From Davis (1974) data

$$\log N = 2.5 - 0.71I \text{ per year for a } 20,000 \text{ km}^2 \text{ area}$$

$$\text{then } N'_{7.3} = 2.2 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year at the site}$$

$$\text{and } P_{0.15g} \approx 2 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year}$$

3. From Davis (1974) Data Constrained to Isacks and Oliver (1964) slope

$$\log N = 1.88 - 0.6I$$

$$N'_{7.3} = 3.3 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year at the site}$$

$$\text{or } P_{0.15g} \approx 3 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year at the site}$$

4. For comparison Algermissen (1969) indicates that the mean number of occurrences of intensity VII earthquakes per century per $100,000 \text{ Km}^2$ is 0.88 for the East Coast (region 9). Then

$$N_7 = 0.88 \times \frac{1}{100 \text{ years}} \times \frac{20,000}{100,000}$$

$$N_7 = 1.8 \times 10^{-3} / \text{year for a } 20,000 \text{ km}^2 \text{ area}$$

and

$$N'_7 = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} / \text{year at the site}$$

so that

$$P_I = VII \approx 2 \times 10^{-4}$$

and the probability of equalling or exceeding
0.15g would be marginally less than 1.8×10^{-4}