



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

NOVEMBER 2 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: John McConnell, Assistant Associate Director for  
Population Preparedness, FEMA

FROM: Brian K. Grimes, Program Director, Emergency Preparedness  
Program Office, NRR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE TO REVIEW EFFECTS OF  
EARTHQUAKE AND VOLCANIC ERUPTION ON STATE/LOCAL  
EMERGENCY PLANS

As we have discussed, in the course of our review of licensed utility emergency plans, volcanic eruptions and catastrophic earthquakes have emerged as two issues of high public interest. To insure that these issues are being adequately addressed, we request that FEMA review the State and local planning efforts for the areas around California nuclear power plant sites and the Trojan site with respect to the complications which might arise in the event of extreme natural phenomena and how these can best be addressed in the planning process.

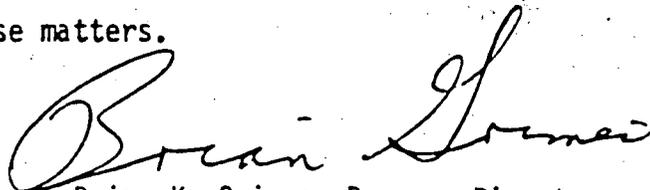
In conjunction with the Trojan plant evaluation for compliance with the new NRC emergency planning regulations, the Commission has directed that the problems of effective protective measures and evacuation during or soon after volcanic eruption (giving due consideration to the possible effects of severe ashfall, mudflows, floods, and landslides) be closely examined. In this regard, we are requesting the licensed utility to revise its emergency plan to explicitly address the possible problems associated with an eruption. This will include considerations of site access during an emergency, assured communications and appropriate revision of the evacuation time estimates used in protective action determinations. The Oregon State Department of Energy, has already addressed the feasibility of implementing effective protective measures during an eruption (enclosure 1).

The earthquake issue has particular relevance to nuclear plants in California (i.e., Diablo Canyon, Humboldt Bay, Rancho Seco and San Onofre). We understand from the FEMA news release of September 29, 1980 that FEMA will lead a team consisting of personnel from Federal, State and local agencies to accelerate efforts towards improving the state of readiness to cope with potential major earthquakes in California. In this regard we request that FEMA include in its evaluation of offsite emergency plans, a qualitative evaluation of complicating factors which might be caused by earthquakes for California nuclear power reactor sites. Specifically,

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such evaluation should include the impacts on State/local emergency plans due to potential disruption of communications networks and evacuation routes. In this regard, we are requesting the affected licensees to revise their emergency plans to explicitly address the possible problems associated with an earthquake to include the type of potential complications discussed above for the Trojan facility.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.



Brian K. Grimes, Program Director  
Emergency Preparedness Program Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Oregon DOE Study  
Report Measures