

D880607

The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: RULEMAKING ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

During the 338th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, June 2-4, 1988, we met with the NRC Staff to discuss the proposed rulemaking actions related to: (1) 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, and 70, "Emergency Preparedness for Fuel Cycle and Other Material Licensees," and (2) 10 CFR Part 50, "Emergency Planning and Preparedness Requirements for Nuclear Power Plant Fuel Loading and Initial Low-Power Operations." The Committee previously commented on this matter in a report dated July 17, 1985.

Regarding these two activities, we offer the following comments:

1. We concur with the proposed rulemaking for fuel cycle and other material licensees. This will codify via rulemaking what is now being addressed through orders. The rule is limited in application and will require emergency planning for only those facilities which have a potential for significant accidental impact on public health. The total number of such facilities is about 30, and we understand that all of them already have emergency plans that fulfill the requirements of the proposed rule.
2. We also concur with the proposed rulemaking that would require the development of limited emergency plans for nuclear power plants during fuel loading and initial low-power operation. During these periods of time, the radioactive material source term is minimal and the proposed degree of emergency preparedness appears commensurate with the risk. Before a plant would be licensed to operate at higher power levels, a full-scale emergency plan would be required.

Sincerely,

W. Kerr
Chairman

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