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

Dear Mr. Zech:

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE ACTION GUIDES FOR NUCLEAR EMERGENCY PLANNING

Included among the factors used by the NRC Staff in its evaluation of the required sizes of the Emergency Planning Zones around nuclear power plants are the Protective Action Guides (PAGs) recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

During the time period since these guides were prepared, the concept of the effective dose equivalent has been developed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, and substantial changes have been made in the thyroid dose considered to be equivalent to a given dose to the whole body. For these reasons, we believe that an updating of these guides would be useful. We understand that EPA is working on such an updating as part of its preparation of a broader set of PAGs. We suggest that the NRC encourage the EPA to proceed with the development of the new Guides in a timely manner and that the results be made available promptly for use in emergency planning evaluations.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward  
Chairman

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