

D851216

Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS REPORT ON IMPACTS OF NATURAL PHENOMENA ON OFF-SITE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE - CLARIFYING COMMENTS

In response to your request during our meeting with the Commission on November 7, 1985, we offer the following clarification of the statement in our letter of October 16, 1985, on the range of probabilities for occurrence of design basis natural events.

The statement in question reads, starting on the last line of Page 1, "For example, plant designs to withstand the impacts of a design basis tornado are based on events that may have a probability of occurrence as low as $10^{-6}/\text{yr.}$ " It was not our intent to state that the value of $10^{-6}/\text{yr.}$ was the lower bound of tornado probability. Rather, in the opinion of knowledgeable experts, the probability of occurrence of a design-basis tornado at the vital area of a nuclear power plant is of the order of $10^{-6}/\text{yr.}$, or less (e.g., $10^{-7}/\text{yr.}$).

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

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