



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

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50-272

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JUN 11 1980

The Honorable Paul Keenan  
New Hampshire House of  
Representatives  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Mr. Keenan:

This is in response to your October 11, 1979, letter which asks that construction of the Seabrook reactor be halted until a safe and timely evacuation plan can be achieved.

As you may know, since the accident at Three Mile Island, the NRC has been reevaluating all aspects of emergency preparedness. In this connection, on October 23, 1979, the NRC staff issued initial guidance to nuclear power plant operators and applicants pertaining to emergency planning measures. In January 1980, the Commission issued more extensive interim guidance. These new measures would implement the general requirements set forth in a proposed revision to Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 of the NRC's regulations. A copy of this document is enclosed. If these new proposed regulations are adopted, nuclear power plant applicants and licensees would be required to develop suitable plans for coping with emergencies for NRC review and approval with provisions for public protection well beyond the site boundary, including provisions for appropriate actions within a plume exposure Emergency Planning Zone and within an ingestion pathway Emergency Planning Zone. The proposed regulations would also provide that the plume exposure zone must encompass an area of about 10 miles in radius centered at the plant and the ingestion pathway zone, an area of about 50 miles in radius centered at the plant.

Priority attention is now being given to reviews of operating facilities. For plants such as Seabrook, the emergency planning reviews will start within the next year and will include a reevaluation of the existing emergency plans of the licensee and of the local and State governments. An important portion of our review will consist of an onsite evaluation by an NRC review team. The review team will evaluate the special characteristics of the site, hold discussions with appropriate local officials, discuss State emergency planning with State officials, and also obtain comments from interested members of the local public. Another important part of this site visit will be an initial determination of possible evacuation routes and identification of special problem areas, such as hospitals, schools, etc. After the meetings at the site, the NRC licensee or applicant will also be required to submit an evacuation study for NRC review. This study will be considered by the NRC review team, in conjunction with other aspects of emergency planning at the specific plant site, before the licensee's emergency plans are approved and an operating license issued.

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The Honorable Paul Keenan

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I apologize for the delay in providing a response to your request, and I hope this information is responsive to your concern. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Appendix E to  
10 CFR Part 50