

POOR ORIGINAL

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August 25, 1979
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Dear Secretary Chilk,

My response to the document released and recorded by the NRC entitled Adequacy and Acceptance of Emergency Planning Around Nuclear Facilities is that of a concerned citizen. As such I am frightened and dismayed by the activities of a newly formed committee in our town whose purpose is to update our Evacuation Plan. The following are reasons for my distress:



The Chairman is a Maine Yankee Employee, and I believe there is a conflict of interest

There have been efforts to close the meetings to the public

The Committee keeps no minutes to my knowledge

The general attitude is one of negligence in that a number of questions and concerns have been belittled, suggestions have been ridiculed, and it seems that the Chairman is going through the minimum motions in an effort to appease the public

Because of the nature of these meetings, I strongly hope for and support NRC approval of evacuation plans as a prerequisite and condition of the operation of nuclear plants.

In addressing the issues you have set forth:

1. I believe the basic objectives of emergency planning should reduce public radiation exposure and should be able to evacuate the public, ie. lesser emergencies should be made public immediately so that we can choose to stay indoors on that particular day or carry our lead umbrellas.

2. A plan which takes into consideration the factors involved:
the amount of radiation released or the potential hazard
the natural forces - wind and weather
the time - day or night
the panic element

I think our plan lacks all of these factors together with any serious consideration of the possibility of a failure or accident.

3. Yes, immediately. The possible added cost would be a small insurance policy for the time being.

4. Yes, immediately.

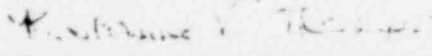
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5. Yes, if possible - Government tax monies presently allotted to nuclear energy research
6. Drills should be a requirement with Town or local authority and all three bodies, Town, State and Federal, observing and participating
7. Town Meeting and media (Town paper, Coastal and Times Record as well as radio stations)
8. Their recommendations should be implemented.
9. A licensee should notify State, Federal and local agencies of any incident in which radiation releases exceed the accepted number of milrems. Notification should be immediate. The public might even be supplied with mechanisms in the home to measure the radiation level at any given time - just as we have thermometers. But lacking these, radio and news media might be used. In an emergency, local authorities - Town official, including Fire Chief, in charge of sounding sirens around Town, should be notified first.
10. This is hard for me to answer, but in our own case, lacking any very serious responsibility in this Town because of the huge tax base supplied by Maine Yankee, I would like to see heavy Federal direction.
11. There should certainly be an effort at coordination - brought about, perhaps by a member of the NRC attending some of the meetings of the Committee which is up-dating our plan.
12. Perhaps both the licensee and the Federal Government ought to provide training - since the more informed we can become, the less chance of panic in the terrible event of an accident.
13. No reliance should be placed on the licensee. An NRC authorized person or team should be part and parcel of licenses and operation of plants - independent of the licensee.
14. Yes, definitely. Just as schools have fire drills, we ought to have periodic drills with participation by the public on a volunteer basis perhaps at first.

Sincerely,


Katharine V. Thompson

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