



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

October 24, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: William H. Kirvan, MPA

FROM: Robert G. Ryan, Director, SP

SUBJECT: OFFICE COMMENTS ON DRAFT GAO REPORT ENTITLED  
"OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF THE NRC"

In general, we think this is a careful, balanced and fair appraisal of NRC and we recommend that the Commission accept all of the recommendations. While we could offer additional examples in support of the conclusions in the areas of our responsibility - relations with the States, emergency planning, the Agreement States and so on, we think the examples offered by GAO are sufficient to support the report conclusions.

We are surprised by one omission which explains many difficulties at NRC, that is, the geographic dispersion of offices. In our view one significant source of difficulties which could and should be remedied is the lack of common office space. We are so scattered that an inordinate amount of time and money is spent on simply trying to get together, consequently, less time and money is available for dealing with genuine problems. The unhealthy remoteness of the Commissioners from the people who work in the agency, the lack of cohesiveness in our activities stem in our judgment from physical problems which can be solved. Even if a new building is not available immediately, the Commission headquarters can and should be moved immediately to Bethesda.

  
Robert G. Ryan, Director  
Office of State Programs

1354 004

7911190 0.52