



OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

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

November 8, 1979

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Staats:

On March 30, 1979, the Comptroller General of the United States submitted a report entitled "Areas Around Nuclear Facilities Should Be Better Prepared for Radiological Emergencies". One of the recommendations for the NRC in that report was:

"The Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, should establish an emergency planning zone of about 10 miles around all nuclear power plants as recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency/Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force, and require licensees to modify their emergency plans accordingly."

In my response to you on June 26, 1979, I stated that the Commission would give careful consideration to the recommendations of the NRC/EPA Task Force Report.

I now wish to inform you that the Commission has accepted and endorses the guidance contained in the task force report and we have published a Federal Register Notice announcing this endorsement (enclosure 1). We have directed the staff to begin to incorporate the guidance into existing documents and to incorporate it into a proposed new rule on emergency planning.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

Enclosure:
As stated.

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