

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20472

Honorable Patricia R. Harris
Secretary
Department of Health, Education
and Welfare
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

OCT 31 1979

Dear Secretary Harris:

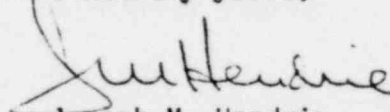
This letter concerns your Department's continued participation in the radiological emergency response (RER) planning program established by Federal Register notice of December 24, 1975 (40 FR 59494). The notice was issued by the Federal Preparedness Agency, whose functions have been assumed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Federal Interagency Central Coordinating Committee (FICCC) was established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to coordinate the activities of Departments and agencies participating in RER planning as outlined in the 1975 notice. The establishment of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on July 15, 1979, by Executive Order 12148, made it appropriate to reexamine intra-Federal relationships and responsibilities regarding RER planning.

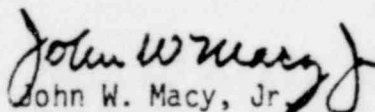
In view of the responsibilities assigned to FEMA by the Executive Order, to coordinate the emergency planning functions of Executive agencies, we agreed on September 11, 1979 that FEMA should henceforth chair the FICCC. We are also preparing a new Federal Register notice to replace that of December 1975.

This notice will include an outline of responsibilities of your Department. Consequently, we will be requesting the active participation of your staff in reviewing the new Federal Register notice. As we continue our efforts related to this important work, we will look forward to working with Mr. Bernard Shleien, Bureau of Radiological Health, who is the DHEW member of the FICCC.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission



John W. Macy, Jr.
Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency

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