



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

DEC 7 1979

The Honorable Ruth C. Clusen  
Assistant Secretary for Environment  
Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. Clusen:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been reviewing the potential role of atmospheric modeling computer codes as a means of assessing the need for protective actions offsite during nuclear emergencies. We have reached the stage where it seems advisable to consider a substantial pilot project using the Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC).

In recent weeks, we have been in contact with Lawrence Livermore Laboratory (LLL) and Mr. L. Joe Deal of your office to familiarize ourselves with the technical details of ARAC. LLL is also completing a two phase study for NRC investigating the feasibility of using ARAC at commercial facilities.

Since the TMI-2 incident, some States have become quite interested in computer assisted incident management: New York, Illinois and California have formally expressed interest in ARAC. On our own part, NRC would like to have a working installation in our Bethesda Operations Center in order to develop familiarity with the ARAC system by hands-on experience.

Based on this activity, our Office of State Programs has proposed a phased, pilot installation of ARAC which would include equipment in two or three State emergency operations centers, replicate equipment at a reactor site in those States and an installation at the NRC Operations Center. This action would allow a greater understanding of the technological problems involved in the operation of ARAC in support of emergency activities around a nuclear power plant.

Because we are very interested in an early start on the pilot installation, I would appreciate your views with respect to such a pilot installation. We have requested a limited budget allowance for ARAC in our FY 1980 Supplementary Appropriation which can be obligated if a pilot installation is acceptable to DOE. We would like to place priority on installations in New York and the NRC Operations Center in Bethesda. Installations at other locations could follow shortly in Illinois and California given availability of funds and DOE technical support.

Mr. Robert G. Ryan, Director of the Office of State Programs (telephone 492-8171) will coordinate the pilot installation activity for NRC. We

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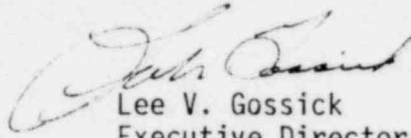
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The Honorable Ruth C. Clusen

would be happy to discuss this important matter further with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee V. Gossick".

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director for Operations

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