

Docket Nos. 50-277/278
and 50-289/320

JUN 27 1972

Dr. Chauncey Kepford
York County Environmental Council
P.O. Box 285
York, Pennsylvania 17405

Dear Dr. Kepford:

In your letter dated May 23, 1972, you requested information regarding the status of the emergency core cooling systems for nuclear power stations and emergency plans for safeguarding the public health and safety. The two nuclear power generating stations which are located near your city are the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station located approximately 8 miles north of York, Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna River and the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station located approximately 25 miles southeast of York on the western shore of the Conowingo Pond. The nuclear power stations for both of these sites are under construction at the present time and the first units are scheduled to be operational by the summer of 1973.

Prior to the issuance of construction permits to the owners of these nuclear power stations, the regulatory staff of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) performed a detailed review of the design of these plants and the criteria to be used in their construction to assure that the public's health and safety is protected. Prior to operation of the station, the owner must obtain from the AEC an operating license along with Technical Specifications which govern the conditions under which the station must operate. The operating license review by the AEC for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Units 2 and 3 is nearly completed and the Directorate of Licensing's Safety Evaluation Report will be issued within about 4 months.

I am enclosing an information pamphlet entitled "Licensing of Power Reactors" which describes the licensing process that must be completed prior to issuance of a construction permit or operating license for any nuclear power generating facility. Our regulations require the utilities proposing to build and operate a nuclear power station make available to the public, near the location of the facility, copies of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) or the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). These reports contain detailed descriptions of the facility design including subsystems such as the Emergency Core Cooling Systems and the Emergency Plan for the site.

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With regard to your specific concern as to the adequacy of the Emergency Core Cooling Systems, the Commission has developed Interim Acceptance Criteria for these systems. The Emergency Core Cooling Systems incorporated in the Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Stations meet the Interim Acceptance Criteria. These criteria are currently undergoing review in a rulemaking hearing to determine whether or not they should be revised or modified. During the course of the hearing, some members of the scientific community have been critical of the criteria. When the hearings are completed, the Commission will weigh and consider this opinion in the context of the total hearing record including the favorable technical opinion. At that time, a decision will be made with respect to maintaining or revising the criteria.

Rather than attempt to describe the emergency core cooling system, I recommend that you read Section 6.0, "Core Standby Cooling Systems" of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Units 2 and 3 FSAR which is available to the public at the Martin Memorial Library, 159 E. Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. I am enclosing a copy of our regulation 10 CFR Part 50 and a copy of the Interim Acceptance Criteria For Emergency Core Cooling System For Light Water Reactors which describes the requirements and criteria that govern our decision regarding the adequacy of a nuclear power station design to assure protection of the public health and safety.

The Emergency Plan for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station is described in Appendix O of the FSAR. Responsibilities for alerting the public and for any evacuation of the public, in the unlikely event these are required, are defined in the Emergency Plan. The Emergency Plan for a nuclear power facility must meet the requirements and criteria set forth in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E. The Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Emergency Plan has been developed through close cooperation between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, USAEC, and the Philadelphia Electric Company.

The AEC requires the owner of each large nuclear power plant to purchase \$95 million in public liability insurance to cover any liability from nuclear incidents. Ninety-five million is the maximum amount of coverage that is currently available from the private sector. In addition, the Federal Government, by law, provides indemnity for public liability not to exceed an additional \$465 million. Thus, a total of \$560 million is available to pay claims for any liability due to a nuclear incident (both personal injury and property damage).

Dr. Chauncey Kepford

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I hope this provides the information you require in your capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the York County Environmental Council. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original
A. Giambusso

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures

1. Licensing of Power Reactors
2. 10 CFR Part 50
3. Interim Acceptance Criteria for
Emergency Core Cooling Systems
For Light Water Reactors

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bcc: Chairman Schlesinger (2)

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DATE ▶	6/5/72	6/3/72	6/3/72	6/3/72	6/2/72	6/24/72