



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

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

June 1, 1979

The Honorable Cliff Finch
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Finch:

Because of the Three Mile Island accident, there is an increased interest in radiological emergency response planning for fixed nuclear facilities. As you know, the offsite component of this planning is the responsibility of State and local governments.

To date, twelve States have received NRC concurrence in their emergency plans in support of these facilities. We have offered NRC's assistance to 18 Governors in the upgrade, review and evaluation of plans of 15 other States with operating facilities and of 3 States contiguous to these with nuclear facilities near the common borders.

As you are aware, your State now has four nuclear power facilities under construction. I am sure that you want to improve your emergency preparedness posture down to the involved county and municipal levels of government at the earliest possible date. I want to pledge to you today that NRC will provide whatever assistance we can to help you achieve that goal.

Some time ago we established Federal Interagency Regional Advisory Committees for this kind of planning in the 10 standard Federal Regions. Your Civil Defense Council and your Division of Radiological Health are aware of the existence of these committees. At your request, or at the request of your State officers responsible for this kind of planning, NRC and the committees stand ready to assist you in any way that we can.

We should note that the General Accounting Office has urged us to "allow nuclear powerplants to begin operations only where state and local emergency response plans contain all the Commission's essential planning elements." Since this recommended action would alter the traditional NRC role in this area, we would appreciate receiving any comments that you might have with regard to it.

Please call me (telephone 202/634-1459) or Mr. Robert G. Ryan, Director of our Office of State Programs (telephone 301/492-8170) with any thoughts or questions you may have on this matter.

Sincerely

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

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