



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

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June 18, 1979

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

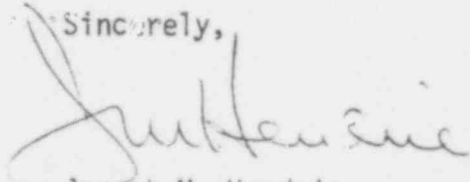
Because of the Three Mile Island accident, there is an increased interest in radiological emergency response planning for fixed nuclear facilities. As you know, the offsite component of this planning is the responsibility of State and local governments. To date, twelve States have received NRC concurrence in their emergency plans in support of these facilities. NRC has not yet concurred in the State of West Virginia's plan.

Our Office of State Programs has been in touch with Mr. John Anderson, Director of your Office of Emergency Services, to talk about the West Virginia plan, but NRC has not received a current plan from your State for review. Although West Virginia does not have operating reactors within the State, we encourage further effort on your plan in view of the presence of nuclear reactors in Pennsylvania near your border even though only a very small area of West Virginia is near these reactors.

We are very concerned about this matter and I am sure that you share our concern. I hope that we can move forward quickly toward the attainment of NRC concurrence in the West Virginia plan. In this regard, I assure you that NRC will give your Office of Emergency Services whatever assistance we possibly can to bring the West Virginia plan to a point of readiness and to achieve an NRC concurrence at the earliest possible time.

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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