



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

MAY 17 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert G. Ryan, Director
Office of State Programs

THRU: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation *HRD*

FROM: Richard C. DeYoung, Director
Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMISSION RESPONSE TO GAO REPORT ON
RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation recommends that the proposed response enclosed with your memorandum dated May 7, 1979, be modified in the following respects.

In order to more explicitly state the NRC position on emergency planning, replace the first sentence of the proposed response to the first GAO recommendation with:

"The NRC has not considered it necessary to require concurrence in State radiological emergency response plans submitted pursuant to the program described by the Federal Preparedness Agency (GSA) in its Federal Register Notice of December 24, 1975, as a condition precedent to the issuing of a nuclear power plant operating license. This is because the NRC staff requires licensee - State - local government coordination in emergency planning and an assessment of preparedness capabilities as set forth in its Regulatory Guide (1.101) "Emergency Planning for Nuclear Power Plants", the principal staff document setting forth its views as to how the Commission's regulations (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E) can acceptably be implemented."

Further, we recommend that our response should acknowledge that the NRC needs to reexamine its program in the emergency response area with respect to the responsibilities of licensees, State and local governments, and Federal agencies and that additional requirements may be necessary to assure that the health and safety of the public are properly protected, rather than specifically committing to make changes in the regulations at this time.

We will be pleased to meet with you to work out mutually agreeable language for this response.


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We have no objections to the proposed responses to the other recommendations of GAO.



Richard C. DeYoung, Director
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: L. V. Gossick, EDO
S. Levine, RES
N. Haller, MPA

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