



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

MAY 11 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert G. Ryan, Director, Office of State Programs
FROM: J. H. Sniezek, Director, Division of FFMSI, IE
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GAO REPORT ON RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

We have the following comments on the proposed response to GAO:

1. The first sentence in the response to item 1 implies that NRC has issued operating licenses knowing that State and local emergency plans are unacceptable. We suggest a rewording of this sentence.
2. On page 2, in response to item 1, it is stated that the regulations will be revised to require NRC concurrence in the adequacy of State and local radiological emergency response plans related to licensed nuclear facilities as a condition for granting an operating license. This is a reversal of the earlier NRC position. It is not appropriate to state such a reversal prior to evaluation by other NRC Offices. In addition, the response implies that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local agencies did not respond properly. We are not aware that this is the NRC conclusion. This response should be reworded to reflect that the NRC intends to evaluate this recommendation in greater detail.

Our concurrence is contingent on incorporation of the foregoing comments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. H. Sniezek".

J. H. Sniezek, Director
Division of Fuel Facility and
Materials Safety Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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