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

JUL 20 1979

Mr. Antonio Santasucci
Box 37, Dow Lane
Seabrook, NH 03874

Dear Mr. Santasucci:

I appreciate the concern expressed in your letter to Mr. Denton dated July 2, 1979 regarding the evacuation plans for protecting people in the area around the Seabrook facility in the event of a serious accident at the plant.

In the Seabrook case, during our review of the construction permit application, the NRC staff conducted an evaluation of the feasibility of evacuating both resident and transient persons within five miles of the plant. This matter was considered at some length in the public hearing process in early 1975 which was prior to issuance of the construction permit. It was our view that evacuation out to a distance of five miles was quite feasible, and that if such plans are put into place at the time of plant operation, they could be relied upon to reduce by potentially significant margins the amount of radiological exposure that otherwise could occur as a result of a serious accident.

In accordance with the Commission's formal requirements, the applicant for the Seabrook plant must submit final plans for coping with emergencies at the operating license review stage. At the present time, this is expected to occur not earlier than about June 1980. It is our understanding that such plans are currently being developed in conjunction with the appropriate State and local agencies. Therefore, it is not surprising that residents of the area such as yourself have not yet been advised as to the availability and content of these plans.

I would also like to mention that our experience with the incident at Three Mile Island has raised numerous questions regarding our requirements in the area of emergency planning. These questions are currently undergoing intensive study by the staff to determine where improvements may be necessary. At this time I expect that any such changes found to be

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necessary would be applied, to the extent they are relevant, to the Seabrook case. In any event, we will take all reasonable and necessary steps to assure that adequate emergency plans are in place for the Seabrook plant before the issuance of a license to operate the facility.

I appreciate this opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,



William E. Kreger, Assistant Director
for Site Analysis, DSE
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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