

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

*Duplicate
copy for
Mr. Phlegar*



March 14, 1979

Mr. Ben F. Phlegar
Executive Editor
U.S. News & World Report
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

IN RESPONSE REFER
TO FOIA-79-58

Dear Mr. Phlegar:

This is in response to your letter of February 16, 1979, in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, information concerning the informational, education, and public affairs activities of the NRC. In a telephone conversation between Mr. Don Grimsley of the NRC and Mr. John S. Lang of your office on February 28, 1979, Mr. Grimsley informed Mr. Lang that the NRC was required by statute or regulation to perform most of the informational and educational activities described in your letter. Mr. Lang agreed, therefore, to limit the request to the NRC's public affairs activities, and requested a summary of NRC's other activities.

In Appendix A is a listing of NRC public affairs activities and their cost. Essentially, this represents the FY 1978 budget of the Office of Public Affairs.

The following is a summary of the NRC's informational and educational activities:

(1) Section 141.b. of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2161) requires the NRC to disseminate scientific and technical information so as to provide the free interchange of ideas and criticism and to enlarge the fund of technical information. NRC's Environmental Impact Statements and the results of NRC research and other studies are published as NUREG Reports and distributed by the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA. The NRC also funds, with the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Safety Journal, published by the Nuclear Safety Information Center, Oak Ridge, TN. In addition, members of the NRC staff present papers and participate in conferences, symposia, seminars, and other meetings covering a wide range of scientific and technical subjects.

(2) Section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2239), requires the NRC to hold a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act on any application for a construction permit for a nuclear power plant and certain other facilities. Under the Act, hearings may

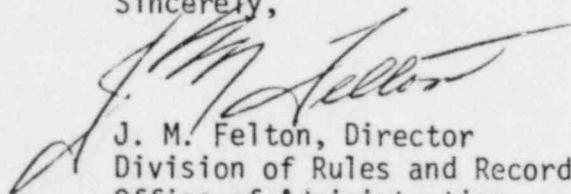
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also be requested at the operating license stage for such facilities. Any person whose interest may be affected by the proceeding may petition to intervene and become a party to the proceeding. In order that persons living near the site of a proposed facility may have available to them the documents considered by the NRC staff in its review of an application, and in order that parties to a proceeding may participate in a more informed manner, the NRC has established Local Public Document Rooms (LPDRs), normally located in a public library, near the site of each facility. Currently, there are 136 LPDRs in operation. A copy of the LPDR Roster is enclosed for your information. The NRC also places notices in the local newspapers when an application is received and a notice of hearing is issued, and when an LPDR is established or moved to another location. Recently, the NRC has also placed notices in the local newspapers when there have been meetings between NRC staff and the applicant in the local area, and the public is invited to attend these meetings.

(3) In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and 10 CFR Part 9 of the Commission's regulations, the NRC maintains a Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC, where copies of NRC documents are available for public inspection and copying. The Public Document Room contains copies of all documents maintained at the LPDRs, as well as transcripts of Commission meetings, NUREG Reports, topical reports, contracts, Commission, Appeal Board, and Licensing Panel decisions in licensing proceedings, Public Announcements, FOIA requests and documents made available in response to such requests, and many other documents relating to NRC's regulatory responsibilities. The NRC has also established a separate office, the Freedom of Information and Privacy Branch, to handle requests for information under the FOIA and Privacy Act.

If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



J. M. Felton, Director
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

Enclosures: As stated

APPENDIX A

1. Personnel compensation (FY 78) - 10 professionals and 3 secretaries at the end of fiscal year - \$376,000
2. Personnel benefits - \$36,000
3. Administrative support (the pro-rated change to the Office of Public Affairs for the agency's overhead costs such as space and equipment rental) - \$116,000
4. Travel - \$20,000