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January 22, 1979

NRC-N-97

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Docket Nos. STN 50-568 and STN 50-569

This is in response to your letter of November 22, 1978 and the two enclosures relating to state and local government requests for information on two alternate sites. We are in touch with the various involved state and local authorities often, including in particular the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Town of Westerly. Our response to the DEM motion was distributed to the staff and all interested parties in November 1978. Beyond this, we have supplied information to the agencies involved in connection with these requests and expect to continue to do so. This constitutes our direct response to these letters. We regard this as part of our ongoing communication with state and local agencies, quite independent of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing process. If any significant changes to Project plans result from our discussions with state and local government we will amend the Environmental Report and distribute the amendment in accordance with Marie Slater's letter of June 9, 1978.

In general, the questions asked in the attachments to your letter of November 22 fall into two categories. The first category is questions whose answers with respect to Westerly are already found (to a greater or lesser degree) in the Environmental Report and its Appendices. See for instance the figures in ER Section 2.1 with respect to land use, zoning, demography, ground water resources, and parks and recreational areas. As another example, the comparative cost benefit analysis of all candidate alternate sites is found in ER Section 9.3. Westerly transmission line routes were provided in our letter of October 31, 1978 and are included in Appendix F-9 via Revision 5.

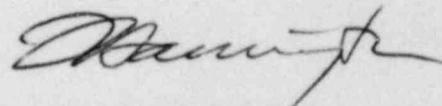
The second category of question is that which is too detailed for a site which is not being proposed. An analysis of the barrier beach impacts of a pipeline once-through cooling system at Westerly would be inappropriate since (1) we do not propose to use the Westerly site and, (2) if we did so propose, we would not propose a pipeline system. Similarly, emergency evacuation measures specific to the Westerly site have not been developed, nor need they be for a site which is not proposed.

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Some pertinent information has become available since the Rhode Island and Westerly data requests were made. The responses to RAI 300.16 and 300.17 answer some of the questions posed. The letter to the NRC from the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program, dated October 10, 1978, deals with the comparative merits of Rome Point and Westerly, with particular regard to the effects of the cooling system, and presumably answered or mooted some of the DEM questions in this connection.

We believe that more than sufficient information exists in the Environmental Report and in Appendix F thereto to support your analysis of Rome Point and Westerly as alternate sites.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Harrington".

Joseph Harrington
Project Manager

JH:rh