

J. Hanauer
RSS

APR 5 1977

Dr. W. D. Rowe
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Radiation Programs
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Rowe:

I understand your letter of December 20, 1976 has been discussed in several conversations between you and Mr. Rusche. As he indicated the NRC has a variety of programs underway or planned that relate to the risks associated with light-water-cooled nuclear power plants.

We are in the process of reassessing our siting policies and practices, which reflect one important means by which the risks associated with potential accidents may be reduced. We also are considering the need for a revision to the present guidelines for evaluating accidents in Environmental Reports. As part of this latter program, we intend to extend the detailed assessments reported in WASH-1400 to more likely events (Classes 3-8 accidents).

I understand based on your meeting with Mr. Rusche on February 16, 1977 that you are generally in agreement with our preliminary plans for these efforts. The details of these programs are still under development and we would welcome your input. We plan to have a meeting in the near future to discuss planned programs for examining accident risks including variations due to site/plant differences. EPA staff participation would be useful.

Once these risks are quantified, an assessment of the generic acceptability of these risks is needed and will undoubtedly require participation by many other parties. You indicated in your letter of December 20, 1976, agreement with our view that as a part of this assessment, the overall environmental impacts of the LWP fuel cycle, including accident risks, should be compared with those associated with other systems of energy generation. As you know we are now including a discussion of coal vs. nuclear impacts in our environmental assessments. We expect to continue our efforts to develop better measures of comparison. We were pleased to learn that EPA has a research program which can contribute to this overall effort.

In our view, any assessment of the generic acceptability of accident risks should be made in the context of risks associated with other systems of energy generation and should await the completion of the programs noted above.

OFFICE →						
SURNAME →						
DATE →						

79051603(6)

Dr. W. D. Rowe

- 2 -

We are of the opinion that the programs mentioned above will permit a more informed basis for judging acceptable levels of risk. As our plans and programs mature, we plan to solicit public participation and comment.

In view of the wide public interest in this area and the fact that a variety of government agencies may have studied, or be interested in, the general subject of power generation risks, we believe it would be appropriate to broaden the dialogue to include agencies other than EPA and NRC. To this end, we have been in contact with Mr. Jelinek of CEQ and have requested that a meeting be set up in the near future to discuss ways of pursuing this matter on a coordinated basis. We will be in contact with you regarding arrangements for this meeting and the staff meeting on the accident study program.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lee V. Gossick

Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION:

- BRusche
- ECase
- HDenton
- DMuller
- RVollmer
- DBunch
- GErtter (01290)
- MGroff
- MJambor
- HShapar
- SLevine
- RMinogue
- SHanauer
- KChapman
- JMiller
- RBoyd
- RHeineman
- VStello
- LVGossick
- Central File
- EDO Reading
- NRR Reading
- DSE Reading

- AAB File
- AAB Reading
- ELD
- WDircks

See attached for previous concurrences

OFFICE →	EDO				
SURNAME →	LVGossick				
DATE →	4/ /77				