

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

The association of electric companies

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April 18, 1980

The Honorable John F. Ahearne, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

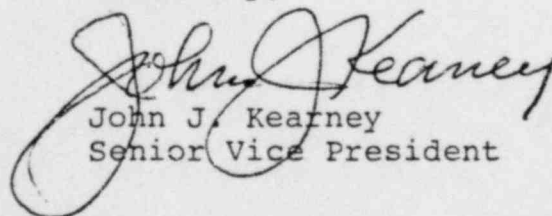
The Edison Electric Institute is concerned that some of the actions proposed and being taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff regarding radiological emergency planning may not be supportable in achieving practical improvements in emergency planning. EEI supports reasonable upgrading of the radiological emergency preparedness capability of states and localities, along with related activities.

On March 26, 1980 a member of your emergency planning staff suggested at a meeting of NRC's Commissioners that perhaps a half-day meeting between industry representatives and the Commissioners could be held to permit a broad, comprehensive exchange relating to our concerns. EEI is most willing and anxious to participate in such a meeting.

We have, of course, filed our comments in response to the notice of a proposed Emergency Planning Rule (44 FR 75167) with your staff and hope the comments will be given full and studied consideration. We request a meeting with you prior to the final drafting of the emergency planning rule to afford you time to consider our views and include them in the preparation of further NRC regulations.

Your early response would be welcome.

Sincerely,


John J. Kearney
Senior Vice President

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YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY



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April 3, 1980

Dr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

I was pleased to receive your letter of March 21st which responded to my concerns regarding the Emergency Planning Workshop held in New York City on January 15th. Yankee would have liked to participate in the staff briefing you received on March 26th relative to emergency planning. Although we did receive telephone notification on Monday, March 24th, we were unable to resolve schedule conflicts which prevented key people from being available.

I have received several reports on the staff briefing and as a result, would appreciate the same opportunity to provide a utility perspective on the issue of emergency planning. Mr. Grimes of the NRC staff, in his concluding comment, suggested "that the Commissioners might want to consider setting aside a half a day to hear directly some of these concerns from state and local officials, utilities and the general public."

Yankee Atomic would be prepared to work with or through some other industry organization in order to provide a focused productive meeting if one could be arranged. We believe the issue of emergency planning is very important and one that should be carefully thought out. We are very concerned that in the admitted haste to promulgate rules, overall public health and safety may be unnecessarily compromised.

We feel it is important for the Commissioners to hear from the implementors of the proposed rule directly prior to the staff's development of the final rule. At the briefing, the staff seemed to be looking for direction from the Commissioners on several key issues. We feel such direction can best be given after other involved parties have had an opportunity to present their positions.

We urge your consideration of this offer and we would be most happy to coordinate our efforts with other interested industry representatives.

Very truly yours,

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

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E. Vandenburg
Vice President

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