



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

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March 18, 1980

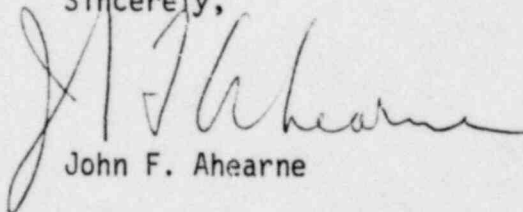
The Honorable John W. Wydler  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wydler:

I have received your January 28, 1980 letter in which you express concern about the emphasis that NRC gives to emergency planning for nuclear accidents. We want to assure you that the NRC is cooperating fully with FEMA in developing its rules on emergency planning. Indeed, the planning guidance to State and local governments has been prepared and issued jointly with FEMA. In addition, FEMA and NRC have entered into a memorandum of understanding and expect to continue close cooperation in this area. Finally, FEMA has jurisdiction to assess State and local preparedness generally for a range of possible disasters including enemy attack on the United States. The NRC, however, is statutorily focused on health and safety considerations, including emergency planning, associated with accidents at nuclear facilities. Our proposed emergency planning regulations are so oriented, rather than toward nuclear attacks or non-nuclear catastrophies. To the extent that planning and preparedness for nuclear emergencies has broader implications for State and local governments working with FEMA and NRC, it is possible that our proposed rules may have positive effects on disaster planning generally.

Regarding your letter of February 15, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these matters with you further.

Sincerely,



John F. Ahearne

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