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Congress of the United States
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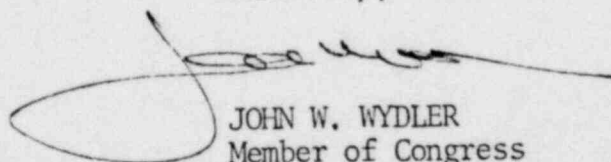
Dear John:

I appreciate receiving the Commission's recently proposed rule on emergency planning from Carl Kammerer in late December. The rulemaking is evidence of a general trend and attitude in the Commission which disturbs me greatly. I cannot understand how this Administration has allowed this pre-occupation with emergency response planning to become such an all-consuming exercise. I believe you have a responsibility to assess the probability of a catastrophic nuclear accident in the context of potential danger from nuclear weapons and other possible disasters. It is tragic that the NRC has come forward with a proposed rule when we have no idea as to whether you are employing reasonable criteria to place the exercise in its proper context. I have corresponded with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and they assure me that they are considering evacuation plans in the question of nuclear attack as well as under the circumstances of a nuclear power plant accident. The former is certainly more probable than the latter and thus I suggest that NRC look at the evacuation question for power plants in the framework of whatever FEMA does for nuclear attack.

I cannot believe that detailed emergency planning for the question of enemy attack has received such little attention in context to the great scrutiny that has recently been paid to a most improbable scenario, i.e., the nuclear plant catastrophic accident, particularly in light of the enhanced attention to safety since Three Mile Island.

I will appreciate having your views on this matter; it seems to me that the NRC is getting off on the wrong foot with this presumptuous rule-making exercise. The Congress has certainly taken a strong position on such planning in the votes on the NRC authorization bill.

Sincerely,



JOHN W. WYDLER
Member of Congress

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