

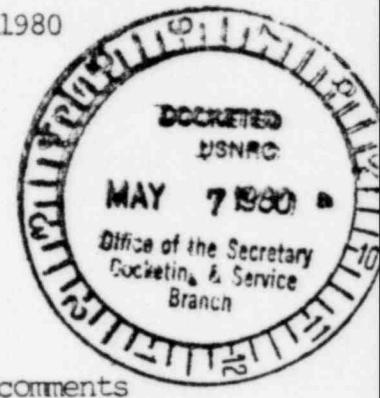
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT  
ENERGY DIVISION

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PROPOSED RULE **PR-50 (193)**  
**(44 FR 75167)**

February 28, 1980



Mr. Sheldon A. Schwartz  
Assistant Director for Program Development  
Office of State Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20555.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

This is in response to your letter of February 1, 1980 requesting comments on the proposed NRC emergency planning rule. Mr. Mancuso and Mr. Heubner have commented on the details of the proposed changes and alternatives for implementation. I have nothing more to add to their analysis. However, it is important for the NRC to recognize the significance of the "circumstances beyond our control" which prompted your letter.

The bottom line in emergency response planning is to achieve desired public response in a timely fashion. A crucial element of this process is the credibility of those determining what the desired response is in a given circumstance. From participating in the January 15th workshop in New York, it is my opinion that the NRC must make a concerted effort to enhance its credibility to the public before any orders it issues will be taken seriously.

The people who came to speak to the NRC at the workshop were very concerned and very upset for non-specific reasons. Many of the issues that were raised were not relevant to the topic under consideration at the meeting. The workshop was used as a venting mechanism for pent up concerns. In a power plant, when a vent blows out, it may be an indication of an underlying problem. To proceed with planning for emergencies as if there had been no public outburst may ignore a very real problem.

Regularly scheduled meetings to allow the NRC to explain how it is addressing the many issues of concern surrounding nuclear power may be helpful.

Public hearings in the towns to review emergency response plans and to obtain input from the public may also be helpful.

Such meetings may not be perceived as addressing any specific needs of the NRC, but if the NRC builds credibility in the public eye by being actively receptive to the concerns of the people, everyone benefits.

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Yours is a very difficult role in the power supply picture. I look forward to participating further in the federal-state dialogue to jointly address the issues we are facing.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Maria Smith*

Patricia Smith

cc: Thomas H. Fitzpatrick  
Undersecretary for Energy

PMS:cj