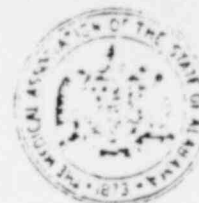


065-119-
SECT



State of Alabama
Department of Public Health
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130



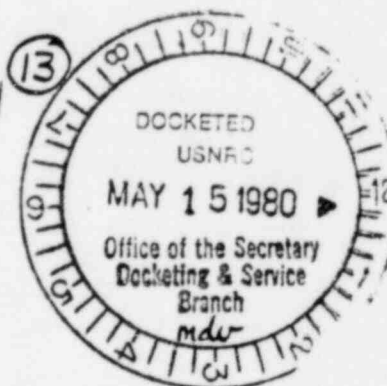
April 15, 1980

IRAL MYERS, M. D.

STATE HEALTH OFFICER DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR-Misc.-NUREG-0654
(45 FR 9768)



Mr. Harris M. Pope, Chairman
Federal Regional Advisory Committee
FEMA Region IV
1375 Peachtree Street N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Mr. Pope:

One of the items listed in the statement of evaluation by the RAC of the Alabama Radiation Emergency Plan was incorrectly evaluated. I specifically contest the evaluation of item L.3. The maps on pages B-e and B-f show all hospitals (public, private, or military) in the vicinity of each reactor in either state that are considered capable of providing medical support for any victims of a radiological accident. If these maps should not be limited to the vicinity of each plant then we need a map of the State of Alabama plus one for each of our four contiguous states plus a city map for each of the 300+ cities having such a facility within these five states. We were told at the February 26 meeting in Atlanta that this criteria was limited to the vicinity of the plant.

With regards to these maps, one basic question has yet to be answered, despite our asking it many times. For the use of what person, or groups of persons are these maps being placed in the plan? Whom is going to open the plan to these maps during the emergency and for what purpose?

On April 10, 1980, when Mr. Paul Faye of your staff discussed these findings with my staff it was indicated that the State of Alabama's class "names" must be identical with those of the utility. Unless and until existing laws are revised to give those empowered to declare a "General Emergency" at the plant the authority to order an evacuation off-site, the State of Alabama will use different names of consistent categories. If an on-site "General Emergency" means or implies an evacuation off-site, then the agency declaring the on-site "General Emergency" is in effect ordering the off-site evacuation. This is an authority which they are not empowered under the laws of the State of Alabama. The sole authority, at the state level, with legal authority to order protective actions in a radiological emergency is the State Health Officer or his designee. (Title 22, Chapter 14, Section 11.b, Code of Alabama)

Acknowledged by card. 5/20/80. mdu..

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Mr. Harris M. Pope
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If there were a major release of radioactive materials from a nuclear power plant, the resulting excessive exposure of the public to radiation would cause those exposed to become ill, with either somatic or genetic illness or both. Under existing state law the responsibility for controlling causes of public illness, including radiation, is vested with the State Health Officer and this responsibility can not be delegated.

Our classification system will be "consistent with", but not identical in name with that of the utility until the utility and whomever else is given the power to declare a "General Emergency" at the plant is also given the statutory authority to declare a "General Emergency" (i.e. evacuation) off-site.

Sincerely,

Aubrey V. Godwin, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Environmental Health Administration

AVG:jm

cc: S. B. Slone, III
John C. Heard
Paul Faye

bcc R.G. RYAN