



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

OCT 2 1989

The Honorable Gordon J. Humphrey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I am responding to your September 26, 1989, letter in which you raised several questions concerning my involvement in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) change in position regarding the adequacy of the State of New Hampshire's emergency plans for Seabrook area beach populations. Two independent bodies have reviewed the details of the events which led to the FEMA change in position. Both of these third party reviews concluded that FEMA reached its decision independently, without undue interference or pressure from NRC officials.

On December 30, 1988, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, after hearing testimony from senior FEMA officials, issued a Partial Initial Decision on the New Hampshire Radiological Emergency Response Plan which stated:

"The Board found no basis whatever to support a charge that FEMA's change in position was a result of political pressure or NRC threats -- or that such pressure or threats ever existed. Rather, FEMA's change was brought about by a thorough evaluation of the technical, regulatory and legal issues involved."

Similarly, the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report on February 18, 1989, regarding FEMA's position concerning the adequacy of the emergency response plan for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in which the GAO concluded that "...the record in this matter demonstrates that various programmatic, technical, and legal factors caused FEMA to determine that the New Hampshire plan met FEMA's emergency planning regulations for the beach population....The record also shows that FEMA reached this determination on the basis of its own deliberations and information provided by an outside consultant, the state, and NRC."

Responses to the specific questions raised in your letter, along with relevant documentation, are enclosed. I am confident that after you have reviewed the facts of the matter, you will agree with the conclusions of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and the GAO.

Sincerely,


Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations
(on detail to DOE)

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Enclosures:
As stated

FULL TEXT ASCII SCAN

Enclosures filed in Aug

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