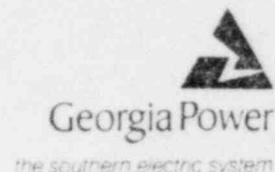


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W. A. Widner
Vice President and General Manager
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September 12, 1980

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
EMERGENCY PLANNING

Gentlemen:

This letter is to inform you of our concept of the physical means for alerting and providing clear instructions to the populace within the plume exposure EPZ. It is believed that a suitable design of the prompt notification system developed from this concept will satisfy the requirements of the final rules on Emergency Planning which were published on August 19, 1980. The design objective is to have the capability to essentially complete the initial notification of the public within the plume exposure EPZ within about 15 minutes from the time at which the state and local governmental officials are notified that a situation exists requiring urgent action.

The following physical systems for providing a prompt notification signal to the public were evaluated: sirens, tone alert receivers compatible with Weather or Emergency Alert transmitters, telephone automatic dialers, and aircraft with loudspeakers. The choice of the design concept proposed below followed considerations of effectiveness, reliability, public relations impact and cost.

The design concept is to provide tone alert receivers, activated by the NOAA Alert, for all establishments (residences, schools, churches, places of business, etc.) within the plume exposure EPZ. Consideration will be given for the placement of sirens or other means for notification at locations where a transient population is apt to congregate such as, recreational areas. Signs or other measures shall also be used to disseminate appropriate information in such areas.

Whenever information or emergency instructions on severe weather conditions or other actual or impending natural or industrial disasters are to be broadcast, the tone alert receivers will provide an audible alarm. These receivers are fixed to a single frequency within the weather band over which the National Weather Service continually broadcasts weather updates and forecasts.

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The tone alert radios to be distributed will be mechanically reliable. Replacement of some components may be required within 5 to 10 years. The sets should last a few decades. When the sets are issued, instructions may be given to contact Georgia Power Company in case of malfunction so that the set can be replaced. All recipients of the radios will be contacted annually to inquire as to their workability. The radios are to be provided with a back-up power source - batteries. Since the weather band radios provide a valuable service, continuous weather reports and weather alerts, the recipients are more likely to care for them. The NOAA Alert system has its own transmitting system which operates around the clock. There is presently no NOAA transmitter covering the HNP environs; a facility can be installed for \$50,000; no major problems are foreseen for such an undertaking. NOAA broadcast stations are equipped with dual transmitters and emergency power.

This prompt notification system is to be augmented with a viable back-up notification system. Although the response of the back-up system is expected to be swift, no guarantees on response times are made. The back-up system features the "Paul Revere" method and employs local resources which provides a more direct means of contacting the public. These means include:

1. Vehicles equipped with sirens or loudspeakers traveling the road network
2. Boats equipped with bullhorns traveling the Altamaha River to notify sportsmen or recreationers
3. Door-to-door contact in acute areas
4. Local radio and cable TV stations
5. Aircraft equipped with sirens or loudspeakers to alert people in the more remote areas and to provide supplemental coverage elsewhere.

These resources will be employed on an as needed and as available basis.

An independent consultant, Wyle Laboratories of El Segundo, California, has been retained to evaluate our concept and to develop system design specifications. These specifications will be based upon a site specific study including topography, demography and meteorology.

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We would like a vote of confidence from you in our design concept before purchases of equipment are effected. Your review of this concept would be appreciated. We would be happy to receive your comments, to answer any questions, or to discuss this concept with you.

Very truly yours,


W. A. Widner

WHO/mb

xc: Ruble A. Thomas
George F. Trowbridge, Esquire
R. F. Rogers, III
M. Manry