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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD
SUITE 202, WALNUT CREEK PLAZA
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

August 22, 1980

Docket No. 70-1257

Exxon Nuclear Company
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, Washington 99352

Attention: Mr. H. P. Estey, Manager
Licensing and Compliance, Operating Facilities

Gentlemen:

This letter is forwarded to you to bring to your attention the purpose of the two direct and dedicated telephone networks, i.e., Health Physics Network (HPN) and Emergency Notification System (ENS). These systems were installed for government use during an emergency. It should be emphasized that the HPN, however, is to be used by you only if you need to reach the NRC and the Emergency Notification System ("hot line") and the commercial systems are not operational or available.

Please remind all personnel of the purpose, as stated above, of these systems. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. H. Engelken".

R. H. Engelken
Director

Enclosure:
Description of ENS & HPN

Emergency Notification System

ENS

Purpose: The ENS is intended for use as the primary means for the site to report emergencies and other significant events to NRC/IE Headquarters. When the NRC Operations Center is activated in response to a site emergency, the ENS becomes the dedicated and continuous line to the NRC for the transmission of operational data.

Use: Whenever there is a site event of the type specified in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 50.72, each licensee is required to report the incident and status of the plant to the NRC as outlined in the referenced section. The ENS is the means for reporting the situation to the NRC.

To activate the ENS, the licensee employee needs only to lift the receiver. This causes the telephone console in the Operations Center in Bethesda, Maryland to ring automatically.

Requirements: If the incident has little potential for impacting the public health and safety, the NRC Duty Officer may only collect relevant information and then terminate the conversation. However, if the event is of a more serious nature, the Duty Officer will maintain an open and continuous line with the site until the matter is resolved. Licensees are required to assign an individual to maintain continuous communication with the NRC staff member in the Operations Center until the NRC decides that the event has been successfully terminated or additional communication is unnecessary.

Health Physics Network

(HPN)

Purpose: The HPN is intended for use as the dedicated line between the NRC Headquarters and the site for health physics data during site emergencies and other significant events. The usual locations for this network are:

Licensee's Health Physics Office
Emergency Operations Facility (EOF)
Alternate EOF
Resident Inspector's Office

Use: During an incident, NRC Headquarters will establish this telephone link using the HPN. Before NRC health physics specialists arrive at the site, the NRC Operations Center communicator may request information from licensee personnel.

Requirements: The HPN should be used for reporting emergencies only after the utility has been unsuccessful at contacting the NRC using the ENS and commercial telephone lines.