



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

September 29, 1980

Mrs. Jan Chadwick
Rt. 2, Box 56
Ashford, Alabama 36312

Dear Mrs. Chadwick:

This responds to your letter of April 10, 1980. The early warning measures to alert the public within a ten mile radius around the Farley Nuclear Power Plant is to permit the public sufficient time to take protective measures during possible severe nuclear incidents. The warning system is to be designed such that persons within the ten mile area could be alerted within 15 minutes after the operator at the Farley facility notified the State and local authorities. The State and/or local authorities would order the warning system and all the backup systems to be activated. While the cost of such a system is substantial the Commission has determined that it is necessary.

The buildings you are referring to are those we feel are necessary to correct some of the deficiencies learned from the Three Mile Island accident. For example, the Technical Support Center is necessary to allow technical personnel to gather at a single place to facilitate the handling of the accident. It is not the intent or purpose of the onsite facilities to accommodate any national or local newspaper people. The building offsite is called the Emergency Operations Facility and is needed because someplace is required where all the radiological and environmental data can be collected and where recommendations can be made to the State and local authorities as to what action should be taken. This facility also provides a place from which utility management can provide overall strategic direction. Again, it is not the intent of this facility to accommodate all of the press. There will be room to periodically brief a small group of the press in the nearsite facility. Most of these facilities also will be used during normal operations (e.g., as training facilities).

In addition, it has been suggested that the licensee identify and make arrangements for the use of a larger facility to be a joint offsite emergency news center in the event of a major reactor accident although this is not an NRC requirement. Such a news center could be available to the licensee, the NRC and other Federal and State agencies. It should be ready for use year-round on short notice and could be needed for an extended period of time, i.e., several weeks or longer. The preferred location for the emergency news center would be at least five miles and preferably ten miles from the reactor site. Possible locations include gymnasiums, national guard armories, community centers, churches, licensee-owned buildings, hotel/motel meeting rooms.

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Mrs. Jan Chadwick

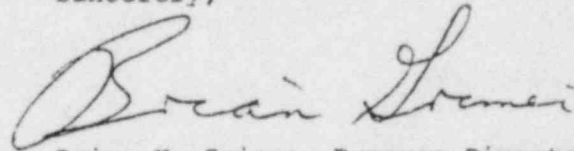
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It is my understanding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the involved States will be holding a public meeting in the vicinity of the plant in the coming months to discuss the State and local emergency plans as they relate to the Farley facility.

We trust the foregoing has clarified those areas of interest to you and regret the delay in our response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian K. Grimes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Brian K. Grimes, Program Director
Emergency Preparedness Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation