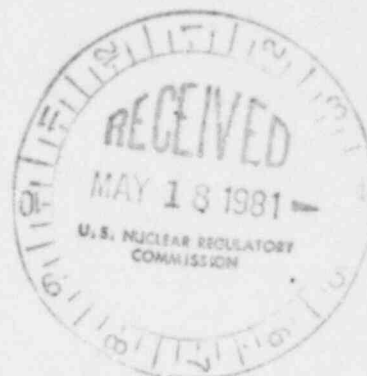




CHAIRMAN

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

May 14, 1981



Dr. Herbert Friedman  
Chairman  
Assembly of Mathematical and  
Physical Sciences  
National Research Council  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Dr. Friedman: *Herb*

I was very pleased to receive your letter of April 30, 1981 and appreciate your continued interest in the safe siting of nuclear facilities especially with regard to earthquake hazards. The report you forwarded, Earthquake Research for Safer Siting of Critical Facilities makes a number of interesting recommendations with regard to future research efforts in the area of earthquake safety. As you are aware, Dr. Jerry Harbour of our Office of Regulatory Research and Dr. Robert E. Jackson of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation served as liaison members to the National Research Council's Panel on Earthquake Problems related to the Siting of Critical Facilities and participated in the review of the report you forwarded.

We continue to maintain a high level of interest in earthquake hazards reduction and the important aspect of acquisition of earthquake information. In this respect, we are continuing to maintain and expand our seismic network coverage with careful attention to geographic areas where we anticipate the best returns. We currently fund extensive networks throughout the U. S., for example, in the Charleston, S. C., New Madrid, Mo.; Nemaha Ridge (Nebraska, Kansas); and New York-New England areas. We have recently initiated coverage in the Pacific Northwest and are also funding portable seismic arrays which can be deployed into areas in the Eastern U. S. following an earthquake to gain valuable information from aftershock occurrences.

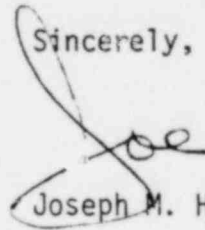
We are beginning to expand strong motion instrumentation where possible and although the validity of the use of stress measurements for siting purposes remains controversial, we have encouraged a research effort in this area also.

Dr. Herbert Friedman

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The NRC and the former AEC have been instrumental in advancing the state of knowledge in the area of earthquake research and I fully anticipate that this effort will continue as an important element of our research effort in the future. I am confident that our efforts in conjunction with those of the U. S. Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation will provide a continued expansion of our knowledge of earthquakes. Thank you for your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe", written over a circular scribble.

Joseph M. Hendrie