

JUL 23 1981



Mr. Edward Goldblatt
465 East 7th Street
New York, New York 11218

Dear Mr. Goldblatt:

I am responding to your letter of July 1, 1981 to the Director, Office of Technical Information and Document Control. In this letter you express concern that the environmental impact statements that were sent to you (NUREG-0534, 0769, and 0779) did not contain any discussion of the seismicity at the nuclear power plant sites.

It is the current practice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to not include a discussion of site seismicity in our environmental impact statements. This is because the statements are intended to be an analysis of the impact of the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant on the external environment. Our analysis indicates that the construction of nuclear power plants does not affect the seismicity of the power plant site except when a cooling lake must be constructed. In these circumstances, seismic activity might be observed during the filling or emptying of the cooling lake. This effect is caused primarily by the deformation of the soil and rock structure underneath the lake due to the weight of the water and is a common occurrence in areas surrounding reservoirs of all types. When such an effect is anticipated, it is now our practice to discuss this effect in the environmental impact statement.

On the other hand, we do include a detailed analysis of site seismicity and the manner in which the nuclear plant is designed to accommodate this seismic activity in the safety evaluation reports for the individual plants. We are enclosing the safety evaluation reports for Summer, Fermi and Waterford. Your perusal of the sections of these reports that deal with site seismicity and plant seismic design may alleviate your concerns.

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With regard to your request that we send you available seismic studies done by the U.S. Geological Survey in the area of nuclear power plants in North and South Carolina, I suggest that you contact Mr. Robert Morris at the Survey for this information at USGS National Center, Mail Stop 908, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22092.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Daniel R. Muller

Daniel R. Muller, Assistant Director
for Environmental Technology
Division of Engineering

Enclosures:

- 1. SER for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1, dtd 2/81
- 2. SER for Enrico Fermi Atomic Power Plant, Unit 2, dtd 5/17/71
- 3. SER for Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, dtd 12/29/72, w/Supplement No. 1, dtd 6/1/73

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