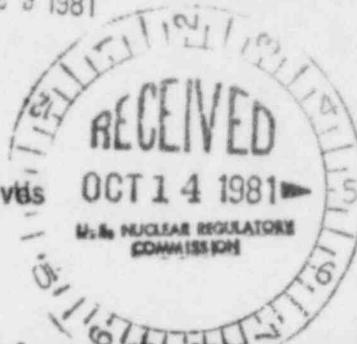


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Docket No. 50-285

SEP 29 1981



The Honorable Paul Daub
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Daub:

This is in response to your note of August 24, 1981, concerning a letter you received from your constituent Roy I. Anderson. Mr. Anderson is writing on behalf of a client who has some serious reservations about one of the NRC's regulations that relate to emergency planning, specifically, the rule that refers to prompt notification of the public within 10 miles of nuclear power plants in the event of an accident.

From what Mr. Anderson says, the Omaha Public Power District is installing sirens to satisfy the requirements, and for the most part, this is what most operators of nuclear power plants are doing because this method is the most efficient and cost-effective for high population density areas. However, the regulation does not specifically dictate that sirens must be used.

Some utilities are using tone alerts in areas where the population density is such that sirens are not cost effective. Tone alerts are individual devices which are placed in individual residences and are activated by a radio frequency. They are silent until activated and are in standard use in many homes in the tornado prone areas of the country. When the alert is activated, the homeowner turns on his radio for further information. I would suggest that Mr. Anderson inform his client to discuss this with the local authorities that are working with the utility to develop the notification system. Of course, tone alerts would have to be provided for all residences for which the siren had been intended to provide the alert signal.

Sincerely,

William Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
Incoming Correspondence

OCA
[Signature]
9/28/81

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