

FEB 2 1982



MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Regional Operations and Generic Requirements

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONE PRACTICES -  
5 AND 10 MILE DISTANCES FROM REACTORS

You recently asked that I look into the rationale and technical bases supporting the current practices of requiring fast alerting and response systems within 10 miles from a plant site. I have done so with the help of my staff and various RES, NRR and IE representatives. I have concluded that the current practices of installing fast-alert systems such as sirens substantially beyond 5 miles from the plant site are not warranted by the technical information at hand. An effective communication network from about 5 to 10 miles should suffice and should not mandate the use of sirens as part of the planning to avoid very improbable life-threatening exposure levels.

If we consider the probable magnitudes of reduction in source term for those more severe accidents within the core melt spectrum, the use of fast-alert systems such as sirens at distances less than 5 miles (e.g., 2 or 3 miles) could be appropriate; however, this is looking ahead with some judgments on likely research outcomes for source-term reduction.

I recommend that the current practices of requiring utilities to install fast-alert systems, such as sirens, beyond about 5 miles be reconsidered.

Original signed by  
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Regional Operations and  
Generic Requirements

cc: H. Denton, NRR  
R. Minogue, RES  
R. DeYoung, IE  
J. Davis, NMSS  
Regional Administrators

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