



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

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March 23, 1981



Mr. Charles A. Green
Knight-Ridder Newspapers
1195 National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045

IN RESPONSE REFER
TO FOIA-80-586

Dear Mr. Green:

This is in further reply to your letter dated November 18, 1980, and to your February 11, 1981 letter, in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, access to a staff study on the potential of presently licensed sites to cause significant radiation exposure to surrounding populations in the event of a severe accident.

In response to your request, a copy of the staff study (17 pages) is enclosed.

This completes action on your request.

Sincerely,

J. M. Felton
J. M. Felton, Director
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

Enclosure: As stated

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WASHINGTON BUREAU,
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Nov. 18. 1980

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES DIVISION

Harold R. Denton
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-80-586
rec'd 12-1-80
in DR

Dear Mr. Denton,

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request access to a staff study on the potential of presently licensed sites to cause significant radiation exposure to surrounding populations in the event of a severe accident.

Reference to the study was made in the third paragraph of an Oct. 14 letter you sent to Ms. Jane Seed of Hobart, Ind. concerning the Bailly nuclear power plant.

Your consideration of this matter would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Green
Charles A. Green

X 4/9/10

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OCT 14 1980

Ms. Jane Seed
150 East 10th Street
Bhart, Indiana 46342

Dear Ms. Seed:

As indicated in Mr. Folsom's letter of June 20, 1980, your comments regarding the Pailly facility, which you made at the issues briefing session held in March 1980 at the White House, have been forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for our consideration. Your comments on the Pailly plant fall into three basic areas; i.e., site suitability with emphasis on the population density, the feasibility of evacuating the adjacent steelmill and national park in the event of a severe accident at Pailly and the capability of the foundation of this plant. Each of these areas is discussed below.

Your comment that the Pailly site, "... scored worst of all the country's sites ..." undoubtedly refers to the proposed guidelines for siting of future nuclear power plants contained in NUPEG-0625, "Report of the Siting Policy Task Force," August 1979. That document proposed new siting criteria, including surrounding population, which would be considered by the NRC staff in evaluating sites for nuclear power plants. It should be noted that the basic intent of the NRC in issuing this document was to reemphasize the importance of low population as one of the factors to be considered when evaluating a proposed site. However, NUPEG-0625 does not consider any of the other equally important siting considerations such as the availability of cooling water, the proximity of a site to existing transmission corridors, the geology and seismology of a site and the environmental impact of a plant. Since all of these factors must be considered in establishing acceptability of a site, NUPEG-0625 is not intended to be the sole basis for judging sites. Public comment on this document has been invited.

With respect to your comment characterizing the Pailly site as the worst of all the country's sites, we have reviewed all of the presently licensed sites for their potential to cause significant radiation exposure to the surrounding population in the event of a severe accident. We found that when the distribution of population, the potential source of fission products and a typical "worst case" meteorological dispersion is considered, the Pailly site ranks eighth to ninth in terms of potential radiation dosage for distances between 30 miles and 50 miles away from the site. (At these distances, the population centered about Chicago, Illinois is included.) However, Pailly is far down the list for distances up to ten miles from the plant. This reflects the relatively small population in a ten mile radius around the Pailly facility as well as its relatively small power level in comparison with other nuclear power plants. If only

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