NEC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

PR-50(43FR37473)

Dear Secretary:

I would like express my support of the proposed relection and utilization facilities. Because of the potential disasterors consequences which could result from a nuclear reactor accident, all possible safety precautions which are technically and economically feasable should be implemented. An extensive and effective emergency plan should be put into effect at all U.S. nuclear power facilities and surrounding areas as soon as possible. The emergency plans should encompass all areas surrounding nuclear facilities for which there is any possible danger of contamination from an accidental release of radiation. This area should include regions outside of the low population zone.

In spite of the tremendous odds against a nuclear accident, there still remains the chance of an accident occurring. An April 12, 1976 Newsweek article reported the possible consequences of a reactor meltdown. The article gave two estimates of probable casualties resulting from the worst reactor meltdown, each depending on wind and population density. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's figure was around 3,300 possible casualities. The Union of Concearned Scientists gave a much higher estimate of "between 23,000 to 36,000 people might die after exposure to the radiation of a meltdown." In view of these estimates, an emergency plan, to protect the public must exsist and be able to be carried

7816140074

seriedged by card. 104

out effectively on a moments notice. An emergency plan must be one of cooperation among all concearned agencies, local, state, and federal. Great care should be taken to assure adequite communications and shelters exsist.

Future nuclear power plant should be required to have emergency plans before licences could be issued, and present plants should be required to have an emergency plan, if they are to retain their licences. These new plants should be constructed in low population zones or where the greatest possible safety conditions exsist.

Thank you for this oppertunity to respond to the proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Slater