

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 2, 1986

Commissioner Lando Zech
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Commissioner Zech:

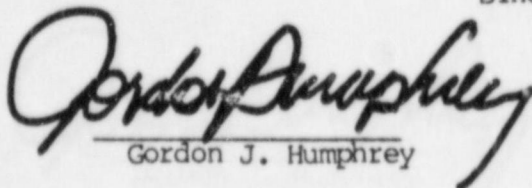
As Members of Congress representing the state of New Hampshire, we want to make clear our opposition to any change in the regulatory policy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which would reduce the size of the 10 mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) for nuclear power plant emergency preparedness.

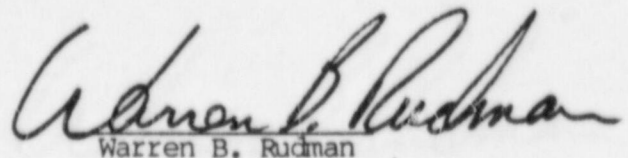
To provide for better protection of the public, and to regain credibility in this crucial area of emergency preparedness, the NRC must begin to exhibit leadership beyond the site boundary. Public trust in the nuclear power plant licensing process has been worn thin by the NRC's perceived indifference to public concerns, as well as the events at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. As a result, the NRC can no longer expect the public to place its faith entirely in state-of-the-art safety standards in the plants alone. For example, off-site emergency plans should be required to address particular accident sequences or a "worse case accident."

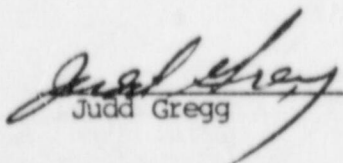
While we recognize that Seabrook Station construction began prior to implementation of the NRC regulation which established the 10 mile EPZ, it is an extreme disservice to the applicants and the public that we are faced with a flawed Federal process, one which does not require evacuation plans to be submitted and approved before a \$4.5 billion investment is ready to go on line. Seabrook Station is now complete and accruing \$50 million per month in interest payments alone while acceptable evacuation provisions are sought out. A situation such as this must never be allowed to occur again.

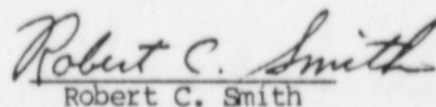
In closing, we view the 10 mile evacuation zone as the minimum acceptable zone. We do not believe that a reduction in the EPZ is in the best interest of the safety and well-being of New Hampshire residents, nor that of the people who live in the seacoast region of our state. We strongly urge you to use your leadership to establish meaningful emergency planning standards for the public in the nuclear power plant licensing process.

Sincerely,


Gordon J. Humphrey


Warren B. Rudman


Judd Gregg


Robert C. Smith

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR