



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations
FROM: J. C. Mark, Chairman, ACRS
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLANNING AT NUCLEAR FACILITIES DURING
AND FOLLOWING NATURAL EVENTS

In its review of nuclear power plants, particularly those in highly seismic areas, the ACRS has raised several questions regarding emergency planning and preparations, and the degree to which they take into account natural events such as earthquakes. For example, will systems and features used to alert the public to an accident in the plant, the equipment to monitor environmental conditions, the communications network, and emergency evacuation routes be available during or following a major earthquake.

The Committee recommends that the NRC Staff give further consideration to the development of emergency plans and the operability of equipment needed to deal with nuclear emergencies which result from natural disturbances.

In this connection, the Committee suggests that in the planning of exercises for the NRC Emergency Operations Center, consideration should be given to postulated scenarios including natural catastrophes such as earthquakes and related plant failures, particularly the failure of equipment or systems that are not Seismic Class I and the impact of such failures on systems important to safety.

It would seem advisable also that the FEMA be requested to review the capabilities of local emergency and disaster organizations to cope with multiple emergencies such as might result from a major earthquake followed closely by an accident at a nuclear power plant.

cc:
Commissioners
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