



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

- Brian S.
Note for
appropriate
action / follow-up.
See

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 106
#20010397

JUN 11 2001

Mr. Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2001, in which you indicate your interest in reestablishing the interagency agreement between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey. I believe it is appropriate that, as was done in the past, the Survey provide technical advice and support in our areas of expertise to the Commission. Consequently, I have asked Mr. James F. Devine, Senior Advisor for Science Applications, to contact Mr. Eugene Imbro, of your staff, to develop the proper documentation and the details of this cooperation.

The safe siting of facilities such as a nuclear power plant is vital to the acceptance of nuclear power by this country and we stand willing to assist you in accomplishing that result.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Groat
Director

Copy to: Mr. Eugene Imbro

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 11, 2001

Dr. Charles G. Groat, Director
U. S. Geological Survey
National Center
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Dr. Groat:

The Geological Survey has provided technical advice to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its predecessor the Atomic Energy Commission to aid in the siting of nuclear power plants since the beginning of the commercial power reactor program. The most recent instance of this process was the support Geologic Survey geologists, geophysicists and seismologists provided to the Commission staff in the review of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant geologic and seismic reevaluation program, which was completed in 1989. Mr. James F. Devine of the Geologic Survey has been our point of contact for technical advice with respect to siting nuclear power plants.

The Commission has recently received indications from the nuclear power industry that power generation companies are seriously considering applying for nuclear power plant early site permits. We expect that the first application may be received late in fiscal year 2002. In preparation for this anticipated work, we would like to reestablish the interagency agreement between the Commission and the Geological Survey for technical support and advice in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, seismology and hydrology with respect to these future siting applications. The previous interagency agreement between the NRC and the Geological Survey provided an overarching framework under which the NRC issued tasking requests for site specific technical support and advice. Although the issues to be addressed by the NRC in granting a site permit may vary for each site, examples of areas where we may request advice and technical support from the Geological Survey include the determination or characterization of regional tectonics, seismogenic sources, maximum earthquake magnitude, paleoseismicity, ground water flow paths, and the interpretation of geophysical data. Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether the Geologic Survey can, as in the past, provide technical support and advice to us in the performance of siting reviews. If this is acceptable to you, I ask that the appropriate member of your organization contact Mr. Eugene Imbro, Chief of the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to begin formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding. His telephone number is 301-415-3288 and his e-mail address is EXI@NRC.GOV. Thank you in advance for your consideration of support to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel J. Collins", is written over the typed name.

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation