



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology
Washington, D.C. 20510

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August 17, 1979

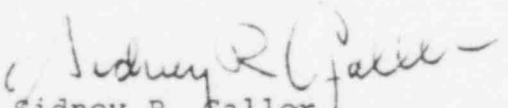
Mr. Ronald L. Ballard
Chief, Environmental Projects
Branch 1
United States Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ballard:

This is in reference to your draft environmental impact statement entitled "New England Power Units 1 and 2." The enclosed comment from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service is forwarded for your consideration.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to provide this comment, which we hope will be of assistance to you. We would appreciate receiving ten (10) copies of the final statement.

Sincerely,


Sidney R. Galler
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Affairs

Enclosure Memo from: Mr. Richard E. Hallgren
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

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July 1979

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
COMMENTS REGARDING DEIS 7906.01

There are two meteorological deficiencies with the DEIS.

- o The "fastest mile" reported at Providence, Rhode Island (page 2-11), is not representative of the winds along the coastal areas some 20 to 25 miles away. For example, Fisher's Island (just north of Montauk Point, Long Island, New York) reported a one minute wind of 105 mph during the great hurricane of 1938. Providence, Rhode Island, reported a 95 mph "fastest mile" during the same storm. Peak wind gusts ⁴⁰ more than 130 mph were reported at Block Island, Rhode Island, with Hurricane Carol in 1954. See the footnote on fastest mile wind in the Local Climatological Data for Providence, Rhode Island, for some additional information.
- o The DEIS does not adequately treat storm surge from hurricanes and tropical storms. For example, during the 1938 hurricane tides along the Rhode Island Coast were about 15 to 20 feet above normal. Wave action on top of this increased the height of the water by 10 to 15 feet. A topographic map clearly delineating flood vulnerable areas should be included in the DEIS.

Winter storms, especially those landfalling to the west of Rhode Island, cause some coastal flooding, too. However, this is usually less severe than that associated with hurricanes.

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