



Carolina Power & Light Company

P. O. Box 1551 • Raleigh, N. C. 27602
(919) 836-6382

SHERWOOD H. SMITH, JR.
Chairman/President

June 12, 1985

Mr. Cecil O. Thomas
Chief, Standardization &
Special Program Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 340
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to File for Topical Report Review

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In July, 1983, a group of electric utility companies formed the Seismicity Owners Group (SOG), and through the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) have undertaken an intensive research program to develop a seismic hazard methodology for the eastern United States. The methodology development phase of the research will be completed in July, 1985. Scientific peer review and extensive comparative evaluations with the NRC/LLNL Seismic Hazard Characterization Program methodology will be completed in November, 1985. By this letter, I want to give you advance notice of our intent to file a topical report on seismic hazard methodology for NRC review under the Topical Report Review Program. It is our intent to pursue the review through completion of a Safety Evaluation Report by the Staff and a review letter by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

The Seismicity Owners Group was formed in response to a request by the NRC Staff that the utility industry independently undertake a seismic hazards research program on a parallel schedule with the NRC/LLNL Seismic Hazards Characterization Program ("Geosciences Branch Plan to Address USGS Clarification Relating to Seismic Design Earthquakes in the Eastern Seaboard of the United States," Memorandum from Richard H. Vollmer to Harold P. Denton, March 2, 1983, amended March 30, 1984). The industry response to this request was very positive. The SOG has 42 members representing 105 (87%) of the 121 nuclear units in operation or under construction east of the Rocky Mountains. The participating utility companies are shown in Attachment 1.

The generic seismic hazard methodology that we propose meets the acceptance criteria for topical review specified in NUREG-0390. Specifically, (1) it deals with an "important-to-safety"

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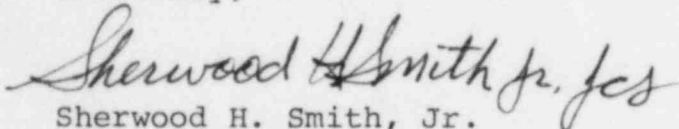
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subject regarding a nuclear power plant, (2) it may be referenced in many licensing actions, (3) it contains complete and detailed information on the specific subject presented, and (4) NRC approval of the report will result in increased efficiency of the review process for actions which reference the report. Based on our schedule for completing the topical report, we project that it will be filed for review during the first quarter of calendar year 1986.

I believe this letter satisfies the NRC's information needs for preliminary notice of intent to file a topical report. Representatives of the SOG would be pleased to meet with you for further discussions of the program, should you desire.

Sincerely,



Sherwood H. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Executive Committee
Seismicity Owners Group

SHS:br

Attachment

cc: J.J. Taylor, EPRI
Wallace Behnke, AIF Policy Committee on Nuclear Regulation
Warren H. Owen, Duke Power Company
Murray Edelman, Chairman, AIF Steering Group
Ruble A. Thomas, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee,
Seismicity Owners Group
Walter B. Loewenstein, EPRI
Ian B. Wall, EPRI
J. Carl Stepp, EPRI
Patrick Higgins, AIF
Robert Szalay, AIF

Seismicity Owners Group
Participating Utilities

Alabama Power Company	Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co.
Arkansas Power & Light Co.	Metropolitan Edison Company
Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.	Mississippi Power & Light Co.
Boston Edison Company	New York Power Authority
Carolina Power & Light Co.	Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Cleveland Electric Illuminating	Northeast Utilities
Commonwealth Edison Company	Northern States Power Company
Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power	Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
Consolidated Edison of New York	Philadelphia Electric Company
The Detroit Edison Company	Public Service Co. of New Hampshire
Duke Power Company	Public Service Electric & Gas Co.
Duquesne Light Company	Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.
Florida Power Corporation	South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.
Florida Power & Light Co.	Tennessee Valley Authority
Georgia Power Company	Texas Utilities Generating Co.
Gulf States Utilities Company	The Toledo Edison Company
Houston Lighting & Power Co.	Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.
Illinois Power Company	Virginia Electric & Power Co.
Jersey Central Power & Light	Wisconsin Electric Power Co.
Kansas Gas & Electric Co.	Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
Louisiana Power & Light Co.	Yankee Atomic Electric Company