



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

September 24, 1985

Samuel W. Speck
Associate Director
State and Local Programs and Support
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Speck:

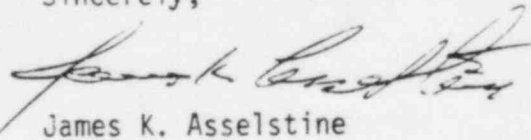
I read with interest your letter received by the Commission on September 20, 1985. In that letter you expressed your support for the Commission's "initial position" on earthquakes and emergency planning. You argued that the rule proposed by the staff in SECY 85-283 which sets out procedures for the consideration of the complicating effects of severe, low frequency natural phenomena on emergency planning is unnecessary.

However, the only reason you gave in support of your position was the following general statement:

"The probability of severe, low frequency natural phenomena in the vicinity of a commercial nuclear power plant is very low. The probability of a concurrent radiological incident at the nuclear power plant is lower yet."

Unfortunately, the NRC staff and the ACRS were unable to reach the same conclusion you reached. The staff identified several very difficult issues associated with relying merely on a statement that the probability is too low to be considered. See, SECY 85-283 and various staff memoranda on this subject. I would appreciate it greatly if you would provide me with any relevant information you might have to support your conclusion. I am specifically interested in information which would bear on the issues raised by the staff in SECY 85-283. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James K. Asselstine

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