

NOV 25 1985

Mr. Alonzo Smith, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Office of the Federal Coordinator
for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research
Suite 300
11426 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) input to the Fiscal Year 1987 Federal Plan for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kornasiewicz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Member
Interdepartmental Committee for
Meteorological Services and
Supporting Research

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses and regulates all nuclear facilities subject to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The licensing and operation of nuclear facilities require identification and evaluation of meteorological conditions that can affect the safe operation of the facility and that provide input to the assessment of the radiological impacts of any airborne releases from the facility.

Within the NRC, the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards review facility siting, design, construction, and operation. These reviews include consideration of meteorological factors. The Office of Inspection and Enforcement and the Regional Offices assure that commitments by NRC applicants, permittees and licensees are carried out, and conduct NRC responses to nuclear facility emergencies. The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research develops regulations, guides, criteria, and other standards relating to the protection of public health and safety and the environment in the licensing of nuclear facilities. This Office also develops and conducts confirmatory research programs in support of activities of the other Offices and in support of rule-making and standards activities.

There are several meteorological areas in which the NRC will have an interest during FY 1987 and beyond and may involve the cooperative efforts of all the NRC Offices. Paleoclimatic reconstruction and climatic change models for high-level radioactive waste repositories will continue to be evaluated, and meteorological criteria for siting low-level radioactive waste repositories are being developed. Upgrading of the meteorological capabilities of the NRC and the operators of nuclear facilities to cope with emergencies involving unplanned airborne releases of radioactive material from the facility is expected to continue. Updated guidance on meteorological measurement programs and high wind and tornadoes is being developed. Continuing research efforts include dispersion model evaluations using data from NRC-sponsored and other dispersion tests to better define effluent washout coefficients during precipitation and to evaluate plume rise models for applicability to various nuclear facility releases. The NRC is also concerned with the dispersion of toxic and explosive non-radioactive substances and their potential effects on the safe operation of nuclear facilities.

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