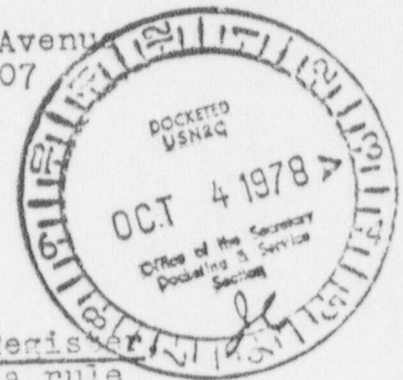


DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

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PR-50(43FR37473)6252 South 41 Avenue
Omaha, Ne. 68107

Secretary of the Commission
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sir,

As listed in the Wednesday, August 23, 1978 Federal Register, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a rule contending that its regulations for emergency plans be amended to extend to areas outside the Low Population Zone (LPZ). In response, I support the proposed rule.

As proposed, the rule would give more consideration to emergency procedures, protective measures, and executive decisions to areas outside the LPZ.

As the use of nuclear energy and subsequently the building of needed new nuclear power plants and the reviewing of existing plants becomes more and more prominent in our society, the existence of necessary emergency procedures and appropriate arrangements at the federal, state, and local levels becomes imperative in case of any accidental release of radioactive material.

A leak of radioactive material from a nuclear power plant to areas outside the LPZ will obviously result in the harm, injury, and possible deaths to a large number of people. If such an accident occurred and an area outside the LPZ with a high density of population was threatened, measures would have to be taken immediately. A delay in the procedures to assure the safety of the people could result in the loss of lives!

Therefore, to assure the health and safety of possibly thousands of people, protective actions in relation to these areas must be developed now and not at the instance of the catastrophe. If procedures and guidelines to evacuation and protection of the high population zone are not made before an accident, but rather later, such actions would not necessarily assure the protection of the people. It would most certainly be a futile effort!

However, if predetermined procedures for evacuation were developed with state and local authorities, the population outside the LPZ would be spared. In areas of high population, emergency procedures and programs are most needed due to its large size. If local authorities didn't have emergency plans, a higher population zone would find itself in mass hysteria and indirection. This would only contribute to the threat upon their health and safety! The quickest evacuation and

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rescue of people to areas of safety after an accidental radioactive release from a nuclear power plant is paramount!

Therefore, I find the proposed rule to amend its present regulations concerning emergency actions outside the LPZ necessary. The people demand such assurances of safety.

There has, however, been increasing criticism from the General Accounting Office of failure by the NRC to watch over the existing nuclear plants, to communicate with workers, and in general, neglect existing procedures and rules. If this be the case, it should be noted there is no need to try to pass legislation of new rules and procedures if, in fact, existing ones are not being met!

In closing, I believe the NRC has its responsibilities to the public for the safety to them in the installations and maintenance of nuclear power plants. In my opinion, the proposed rule is an excellent attempt to promote health and safety and therefore is a necessary rule. But if the NRC is to be effective in its attempts, it must follow through with the actual action of implementing and meeting the proposed rule amendments.

Sincerely,

John P. Salerno

John P. Salerno