

DETAILED RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM SP

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

NOV 28 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold Denton, Director, NRC

FROM: Robert G. Ryan, Director, Office of State Programs

SUBJECT: REGULATORY ACTIONS AND STAFF POSITIONS WHICH
RELY ON WASH 1400

This Office has one item to bring to your attention in which reference to WASH-1400 was used, that is, the recently completed NRC/EPA Task Force Report, NUREG-0396.

The Task Force has used information in the RSS as a basis to perform calculations which illustrate the likelihood of certain offsite dose levels given a core melt accident. Various aspects of the study have been debated by reviewers and additional programs are underway to extend or refine the study. While the RSS is considered by the Task Force to have limited use in dealing with plant/site specific factors, it provides the best currently available source of information on the relative likelihood of large accidental releases of radioactivity given a core melt event. The results derived from the RSS-based work served to confirm the Task Force judgment that offsite planning for a generic distance around nuclear power plants is prudent and useful.

Use of the RSS probability estimates by the Task Force, in the context of emergency planning, has been thoroughly examined. It is recognized that there is a large range of uncertainties in these numbers (as indicated in the Risk Assessment Review Group Report, NUREG/CR-0400), but the perspective gained when considering the probabilities is important in making a rational decision concerning a basis for emergency planning.

Robert G. Ryan

Robert G. Ryan, Director
Office of State Programs

cc: Norman Haller, MPA

May 26, 1978

R. M. Lewis, Chairman
Risk Assessment Review Group
Department of Physics
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dear Dr. Lewis:

In your letter of May 10, 1978 to Lee V. Gossick, you asked if the Executive Director or the senior staff had any information which might have substantive bearing on your deliberations. He in turn, has asked the senior staff to consider your request.

This Office is responsible for administration of State and local emergency preparedness planning and for the training of State and local government personnel as an aid to assuring proper response. We are actively considering the use of WASH-1400 accident cases as a basis for planning and testing State and local plans. To this end, we have asked Sandia Laboratories to prepare scenarios based on WASH-1400 which span a range of potentially possible incidents. In suitable form, these scenarios would be used to test the response of State and local plans and to provide a generic basis for the evolution of emergency monitoring and protective actions.

Our use of scenarios derived from WASH-1400 cases represents a significant projection of the Reactor Safety Study results in the public domain.

For this reason I am bringing this potential application to your attention.

Subj
Ryan RF
RTJaske
HCollins
RGRyan
SSchwartz

bcc: E. Case, NRR
H. Shapar, ELD
S. Levine, RES
R. Minogue, SD

Sincerely,

Original signed
Robert G. Ryan

Robert G. Ryan, Director
Office of State Programs

OFFICE	cc: Lee V. Gossick, LDC					
SURNAME	John H. Austin, OPE			RTJaske/ds	HCollins	RGRyan
DATE				5/26/78	5/26/78	5/ /78