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DECEMBER 11 1979

Mrs. Phyllis Hohenboken
Citizens For Safe Energy
c/o Arlyn Dail, Chairman
RR0
Erie, Illinois 61250

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Dear Mrs. Hohenboken:

Your letter of November 5, 1979 referring to our October 30, 1979 Emergency Preparedness meeting at the Quad Cities nuclear power plant identified the following concerns:

1. Advance notice informing the public of the meeting was insufficient.
2. Timeliness in holding the meeting (4:00 to 5:00 pm) was inappropriate.
3. Education of the public on emergency plans has been inadequate.
4. Legal responsibility for evacuation must be established.
5. The nuclear industry as a whole has a poor record of informing the public with respect to evacuation.

As you are aware, the NRC staff is now involved in a major effort to upgrade the state of emergency planning in and around all operating nuclear power facilities. In response to your concerns set forth in items 1 and 2 above, the NRC staff did in fact notify the utility and the local media 10 days prior to the date of the meeting; however, the announcement did not get into the paper as early as we had hoped. In the future, we shall insure that meeting announcements are published with sufficient notification time. In addition, we are taking action to hold our public meetings in the evening to allow for greater public participation.

The NRC response to the Kemeny Commission's Report (NUREG-0632) addresses informing the public about emergency preparedness. NRC efforts are currently underway to promptly upgrade emergency preparedness capabilities including a requirement for licensed utilities to initiate a program to keep the public informed, on a continuing basis, of the nature of the potential hazards in a

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radiological emergency and of the protective actions that might be required to be taken including evacuation when necessary. The legal responsibility for evacuation rests with the State and local authorities; however, the NRC has an important role in assuring that their activities are adequate. This appears to be in agreement with your stated concerns listed in items 3, 4 and 5.

The NRC staff is vitally concerned with our mission of providing for the protection of the health and safety of the public.

We appreciate your interest in nuclear safety and trust that this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

James R. Miller, Acting Assistant
Director for Site and Safeguards
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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