

SD 906-1

July 25, 1979
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DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR - 50 (44FR41483) (2)

Secretary of the Commission
N. R. C.
Washington D. C. 20555
Attention:
Docketing and Service Branch



Dear Sir or Madam:

In reference to your request for public input for emergency readiness due to nuclear crisis (see enclosure): Do you really expect the public to respond and to what degree would you except their proposals if they did?

First of all, speaking from my position and those like me -- average intelligence, average status, average influence, I know damn little about the use of nuclear elements and anything resulting from the use of them and I'm not consoled by the fact that even the experts don't know enough. It's a very dangerous excuse for not putting the same amount of money into alternate SAFE power supplies. And don't say it's not practical. Think for a minute of the uncountable billions that has been spent on an element so fierce that vast areas can and have become a "waste" forever because of "an accident", not even counting the enormous cesspools being created by dump sites. And what I hate most is that Berwick will become one of these cesspools with what the "powers that be" lead us to believe is going to be "temporary storage" of nuclear waste at the Susquehanna Steam Electric at Beach Haven. And following close on the heels of this neighborhood dump we must recognize the Susquehanna River from Berwick to the Chesapeake and beyond with similar defiling quality. It's like an ominous mushroom from beneath - where we can't see, smell or feel it rather than the giant skyward variety from which we can at least run.

Acknowledged by card...

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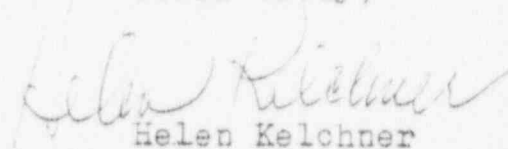
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in the American way of life. We walk away from little things like a photograph of our wedding, our four babies, our grandchildren. We try to console a 90 year old mother by saying, "Everything will be all right," as we evacuate her from the only place with which she's familiar, this aged woman who still tenderly cares for a property and house for which she and her husband worked long and hard to pay off.

If you intend to investigate me because of my outspoken opposition to anything nuclear (except strickly controlled x-ray diagnosis and therapy for medical purposes), save me and other taxpayers the money. I'm an upstanding citizen in a wide area of Berwick surroundings. I may not be loved by all, but I'm respected. I try to help where help is needed, participate in community charities and affairs relating to the betterment of all citizens. I'm not one of the silent majority and I urge those who are to express their opinions rather than accept what is often determined by a "red-necked" few.

One thing more -- when your hearings on licensing the Susquehanna Steam Electric come up, please, please don't make a statement that the public wasn't interested enough to respond. If, by some stroke of luck, they do respond, I'd be scared stiff if you considered taking their suggestions seriously. I love my neighbors, friends and acquaintances, but on a decision of life and death dealing with an unknown destructor, they are not, I repeat, "not" experts. And if the N. R. C. isn't sure enough of themselves that they approach the inexperienced public for help, the American people can be assured that our government is dealing with something much greater than it can handle.

Yours truly,


Helen Kelchner

Copy to President
.. .. Mrs. Carter

NRC seeks your input

Believe it or not, there is a federal agency that wants your input.

It's the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and it's in response to the proposed adoption of additional regulations that would establish as a condition for power reactor operation increased emergency readiness for public protection in the vicinity of such facilities.

The regulations, the NRC stated, would involve utility licensees as well as state and local government authorities. One such licensee will be the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company (PP&L), which is scheduled to put its Susquehanna Steam Electric Station on line in 1981.

The action is one of many being taken by the commission in response to the March 23 accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Station and also is responsive to recommendations from the General Accounting Office and requests from a number of organizations including

renewed and supplemental petitions for rulemaking from Critical Mass and Public Interest Research Groups.

The commission is seeking public comment on the following subjects:

-1 What should be the basic objectives of emergency planning? Reduce public radiation exposure? Prevent public radiation exposures? Capability to evacuate the public? To what extent should these objectives be quantified?

-2 What constitutes an effective emergency response plan for state and local agencies and for NRC licensees? What are the essential elements that must be included in an effective plan? Do existing NRC requirements and guidance lack any of these essential elements?

-3 Should NRC concurrence in the associated state and local emergency response plans be a requirement for continued operation of any nuclear power plant with an existing operating license? If

so, when should this general requirement become effective?

-4 Should prior NRC concurrence in the associated state and local emergency response plans be a requirement for the issuance of any new operating license for a nuclear power plant? If so, when should this general requirement become effective?

-5 Should financial assistance be provided to state and local governments for radiological emergency response, planning and preparedness? If so, to what extent and by what means? What should be the source of the funds?

-6 Should radiological emergency response drills be a requirement? If so, under whose authority: federal, state or local government? To what extent should federal, state and local governments, and licensees be required to participate?

-7 How and to what extent should the public be informed, prior to any

emergency, concerning emergency actions it might be called upon to take?

-8 What actions should be taken in response to the recommendations of the joint NRC/EPA Task Force Report?

-9 Under what circumstances and using what criteria should a licensee notify state, local and federal agencies of incidents, including emergencies? When, how, to what extent, and by whom should the public be notified of these incidents?

-10 How and to what extent should the concerns of state and local governments be incorporated into federal radiological emergency response planning?

-11 How should federal agencies interface with state and local governments and the licensee during emergencies?

-12 Should the licensees be required to provide radiological emergency response training for state and local government personnel? If so, to what extent? Should

the federal government provide such training? If so, to what extent?

-13 To what extent should reliance be placed on licensees for the assessment of the actual or potential consequences of an accident with regard to initiation of protective action? To what extent should this responsibility be borne by federal, state or local governments?

-14 Would public participation in radiological emergency response drills, including evacuation, serve a useful purpose? If so, what should be the extent of the public participation?

Comments should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch within 45 days of publication in the Federal Register on July 17

Note
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These questions are not written in a form conducive to easy understanding -- which should (without a doubt) be the case. They are simple inquiries made complicated by condensing up to 5 queries under one item. It is a rule of good newspaper writing that composition should be made understandable for a 5th grade level so that ALL people in the literate area will retain concentration enough to understand it. In anything as serious as the subject to which you are addressing, simplicity should be of prime importance.

Are you aware that most, if not all, the questionnaires that you send out bare the same characteristic as I am describing? You bog-down your source before they have a chance to comprehend your main issue.