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

August 1, 1980

TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS, LICENSEES OF PLANTS UNDER
CONSTRUCTION AND ALL OPERATING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

SUBJECT: "FUNCTIONAL CRITERIA FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES"
NUREG-0696

Gentlemen:

On May 19, 1980, a Safety Data Integration Group (SDIG) was formed to coordinate and integrate the various NRC offices in developing the functional criteria for emergency response facilities and nuclear power facilities and the nuclear data link (NDL).

The SDIG met with industry representatives on May 20, 1980, to discuss their concerns with the implementation of NRC requirements for emergency response facilities. This meeting served to establish (1) contacts within the industry and NRC for each of the major facilities, (2) a course of action for further exchange of technical information between NRC and an industry subcommittee on these matters, and (3) a vehicle for receiving recommendations as the overall concept was being finalized. After the staff developed the initial draft of NUREG-0696, copies were provided to industry groups for their comments. A meeting was then held on June 19, 1980, in Bethesda, to obtain industry comments and recommendations. Pertinent comments were incorporated in the document. NUREG-0696, concomitant with a proposal for the NDL, was presented to the Commission on July 11, 1980. The Commission approved the NDL in concept and authorized development of specifications for the NDL; and, after incorporation of Commission comments, authorized NUREG-0696 to be published for a public comment period of 30 days. In addition, a proposed implementation schedule for meeting the criteria of NUREG-0696 was also presented and is provided as enclosure (1) for planning purposes.

Enclosure (2), Draft NUREG-0696, provides the draft functional criteria for emergency response facilities. You are requested to review the document and provide comments to the NRC, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Emergency Preparedness Program Office (ATTN: Mr. Steve L. Ramos, Mail Stop Phillips 242) Washington, D. C. 20555, within 30 days of receipt of this letter or the Federal Register Notice announcing publication of Draft NUREG-0696 which ever is later. As you will note in enclosure (1), it is NRC's intent to publish NUREG-0696 in final form no later than October 1, 1980; therefore, it is imperative to receive any comments or recommendations as soon as possible.

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In order to provide a forum for interaction between the NRC staff and licensees, workshops are being planned at NRC Inspection and Enforcement, Region I, II, and III the week of August 17, 1980. Announcement of exact times and places will be provided by Federal Register Notice.

For further information, please contact Mr. Warren Minners (301) 492-7581 or Mr. Steve Ramos (301) 492-8119.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Implementation Schedule for NUREG-0696
2. NUREG-0696

cc w/enclosures:

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