

D940112

Mr. James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

SUBJECT: DRAFT FINAL RULEMAKING PACKAGE DEALING WITH EMERGENCY
PLANNING REGULATIONS

During the 405th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, January 6-7, 1994, we reviewed the subject rulemaking package. We had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the referenced document.

The proposed final rule would amend the existing Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50, as follows:

Reduce the frequency of required participation of States in the ingestion pathway portion of emergency planning exercises from at least once every five years to at least once every six years.

Delete the requirement that all States within the emergency planning zone for a given site fully participate in an off-site exercise for that site at least once every seven years.

Clarify and update the language on participation by State or local governments in the biennial off-site exercise.

The language in the proposed final rule reflects the staff resolution of the few public comments it received. One of the benefits of the proposed rule would be a greater compatibility between NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements.

We believe that the proposed rule will reduce the regulatory burden somewhat with no significant effect on the public health and safety. Accordingly, we recommend that the proposed final rule be issued.

Sincerely,

J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.
Chairman

Reference:

Memorandum dated December 1, 1993, from W. Minners, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, for J. T. Larkins, ACRS, Subject: ACRS Review of Draft Final Rulemaking Package Clarifying the Emergency Planning Regulations Relating to Exercises, with

enclosures