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MAR 8 1965

Dear Dr. Hodges:

Thank you for your letters reporting on the 105th and 106th meetings of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine.

With respect to the Committee's recommendation that licensing authorities require, in addition to an adequate program of health physics covering routine operations, advance plans for hospital procedures in case of accidents, the following information is provided. It has been the practice of the Regulatory Staff, among other objectives of its licensing procedures, to determine the adequacy of the licensee's emergency planning by assuring that its scope is consistent with the applicant's licensed activities, and is broad enough to cover emergency situations. Among other things required is a statement from the licensee regarding plans for handling emergencies in his plant including arrangements made with local medical, police and fire officials. Although we have not attempted to assess medical procedures and practices, effort is made to impress the licensee with the fact that he has the responsibility for developing workable procedures to handle all foreseeable emergency problems, including hospital care. This effort starts during the pre-licensing activities and continues in the course of the normal inspection program throughout the life of the facility. Following the United Nuclear accident in its Rhode Island plant, the Director of Regulation established a Task Force to review present requirements with respect to licensee emergency plans and to develop a guide for use by the Regulatory Staff in assuring the adequacy of all such plans.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the ACEM for the report of its review and evaluation of the Commission's biomedical program, particularly of the offsite program, and for the Committee's promptness in getting it to the Commission. It has been transmitted in toto to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and you will be interested to

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learn that at the recent FY 1966 Authorization Hearings, Mr. Holifield, Chairman of the JCAE, made special reference to your report and expressed appreciation for the submission of the report to his Committee in time for the Hearings.

We shall look forward to receiving the report of your next meeting which, I understand, is scheduled for March 26-27 at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories at Richland.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature]

Chairman

Dr. Fred J. Hodges
Department of Radiology
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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