



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

AUG 17 2000

Kathy Halvey Gibson, Chief  
Emergency Preparedness and  
Health Physics Section  
Operator Licensing, Human Performance,  
and Plant Support Branch  
Division of Inspection Program Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Gibson:

This letter is in response to your June 28, 2000, letter concerning an issue submitted by Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien regarding the adequacy of the Appling County Emergency Rescue and Fire Department to respond to emergencies and evacuation in the vicinity of the Hatch Nuclear Power Plant.

The Regional Assistance Committee (RAC) Chair of FEMA Region IV has prepared the enclosed document that reflects a thorough review and assessment of the adequacy of the Appling County Emergency Management Agency Radiological Emergency Plan to respond to a radiological emergency.

Based on the enclosed documentation, we concur with FEMA Region IV's conclusion that the Appling County Emergency Management Agency Radiological Emergency Plan to respond in case of a radiological incident is adequate to protect the health and safety of the public.

Please contact me at (202) 646-3664 should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Vanessa E. Quinn

Chief

Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch

Enclosure

Enclosure

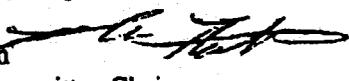


# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region IV  
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

August 9, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vanessa E. Quinn, Chief  
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch

FROM: Lawrence A. Robertson   
Regional Assistance Committee Chairperson  
FEMA Region IV

SUBJECT: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
10 CFR 2.206 Petition Regarding the Hatch Nuclear Power Plant

Reference NRC letter dated June 28, 2000, subject: Request For Assistance To Address Concerns Regarding The Adequacy Of Local Emergency Responders In The Vicinity Of The Hatch Units 1 And 2.

FEMA Region IV staff completed our review of the allegation. The review included reviewing the State of Georgia and Appling County Plans and Procedures for the Hatch Nuclear Power Plant, and previous FEMA Region IV Hatch Exercise Reports. We also discussed the allegation at a July 19, 2000 meeting between FEMA, the Appling County Emergency Management Director, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), NRC Region 2 Director of State and Local Government Affairs Programs, and representatives from the Southern Nuclear Operations Company.

The allegation states:

"Appling County Emergency Rescue and the local fire department are totally ill-equipped to deal with such an emergency and evacuation and it is outrageous to expect them to".

Our review provides the following information concerning the plans and preparedness of Appling County:

Page 63 of the Appling County plan states:

There are two institutional facilities located with the Plume Exposure EPZ. The Altamaha Elementary School and the Baxley Wilderness Institute will require special

consideration in an evacuation. Vehicles should be available at each facility each facility. In the event a release at the plant appears imminent, students and staff at both facilities will be transported directly to the Appling County Elementary Complex on Highway 15 South in Baxley. Should a release occur prior to evacuation, students and staff will be transported to the reception and care center located at the Appling County Comprehensive High School on Georgia Highway 15 South in Baxley. In place sheltering is also an option if evacuation routes are affected by the plume. Parents will be informed by local officials to meet their children at the Appling County Elementary Complex.

Privately owned vehicles will be the primary mode of transportation if evacuation is directed. County school buses, travelling their regular routes will provide transportation to those individuals lacking personal transportation. Specially equipped vehicles will be dispatched directly to the homes of handicapped and/or non-ambulatory individuals requiring special transportation means. A roster of these individuals is maintained in the Appling county EOC and the EMA Directors maintains coordination with the Appling County Health Department and Appling County Department of Family and Children Services on maintenance of the roster and dispatching emergency service vans to evacuate the handicapped

Traffic and access control is provided by the Appling County Sheriff's Department with assistance from Baxley Police Department, County and municipal engineering departments, Appling Health Care System Hospital, State Department of Public Safety (GSP Post 18, Reidsville), Region VI State Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement Section (Metter), State Department of Transportation (Area Engineer), Georgia Forestry Commission as well as Mutual Aid Support from Toombs, Tattnall, Jeff Davis and Bacon County Sheriff's Departments.

FEMA's last evaluated exercise, October 20, 1999, examined the operations of the Appling County EOC and the County support staff there. The next evaluated exercise will be on March 14, 2001.

Based on the results of our review of the approved plans and procedures and the FEMA Region IV Final Hatch Exercise Reports we recommend that NRC be informed that the Appling County Radiological Emergency Plan and Procedures can be implemented and are adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken offsite to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency.