

September 21, 2000

Vanessa E. Quinn, Chief  
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch  
Chemical and Radiological Preparedness Division  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING  
EVACUATION ROUTES AND A POPULATION WHERE ENGLISH IS SPOKEN AS  
A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR THE AREA AROUND INDIAN POINT**

Dear Ms. Quinn:

This is to request the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in addressing concerns raised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) concerning maintaining the integrity of evacuation routes around Indian Point 2 (IP2) and a growing segment of the population who speak English as a second language in certain sections of the emergency planning zone (EPZ) for IP2.

In response to concerns raised by the public and Congress as a result of the February 15, 2000, steam generator tube failure at IP2 the NRC OIG initiated an event inquiry. I have previously provided you a copy of the event inquiry report. As documented on page 28 of the report during the inquiry several first responders expressed concerns to the OIG that due to the population density and road conditions in the area of IP2, any failure to maintain the integrity of the evacuation routes would bring the "plan" to a complete stop. There was also expressed a concern that there is a growing population of individuals in certain sections of the EPZ who speak English as a second language.

It is requested that FEMA review existing emergency plans for the area around IP2 to ensure that they provide adequate measures to assure that the integrity of evacuation routes will be maintained such that impediments would not stop an evacuation should one be called for in response to a radiological emergency at IP2. Additionally, confirm that emergency plans for the area around IP2 adequately provide for communication of information to the general population in the EPZ, including individuals who may speak English as a second language.

Vanessa E. Quinn

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during our telephone discussion regarding these issues, a date of October 31, 2000, was selected as a proposed goal for FEMA's response to this request. Please let us know if this date is not acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Daniel M. Barss of my staff at 301-415-2922.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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