



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region VI
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76201-3698

PT-TH

August 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vanessa E. Quinn
Branch Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch
PT-EX-RG

FROM: *Brenda J. Mosley*
for Larry J. Earp
Branch Chief
Technological Hazards Program Branch

SUBJECT: Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission's (NRC) Request for Information

This memorandum addresses an inquiry made to your office on June 1, 2000 from NRC referencing a letter they received from Mr. Jim Wood. Mr. Wood lives in Delaware Township, a part of Logan County, Arkansas that is within ANO's emergency planning zone. Mr. Wood expressed several concerns to NRC, and NRC requested that FEMA address one of them - Mr. Wood's concern about the lack of maintenance along some evacuation routes in Logan County. As you are probably aware, this same subject was addressed through a series of visits, meetings and letters during 1988. Records documenting those findings remain on file in Region VI.

Following the request by your office, my staff contacted the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and asked them to research and provide information regarding the current road situation in Logan County. As a result, ADH requested a site visit and meeting. On July 24, my staff met with David Snellings, Director of the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management, and his staff from the Nuclear Planning and Response Programs office in Russellville, Arkansas. They took a driving tour over several roads that would be used for evacuation in Logan County.

Attached you will find a letter from Director Snellings responding to our request for information. The letter reemphasizes the adequacies of Logan County's Radiological Emergency Response Plan, the passability of the county roads, and contingency actions and alternatives available to Logan County and the State. Director Snellings concludes his letter by stating, "the existing planning options are adequate to meet the requirements of NUREG-0654 and will ensure that we continue to protect the health and welfare of the citizens in the counties surrounding ANO."

As in 1988 and through demonstration in subsequent graded exercises, the approved plans are adequate to protect the health and safety of the residents living within the emergency planning zone of ANO as determined by FEMA, Region VI. If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact me at 940-898-5240 or Marilyn Boots at 940-898-5122.

Attachment: ADH letter

cc: ADH-Snellings



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

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PT:CR:RP

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

Dear Ms. Gibson:

This letter is in response to your June 1, 2000, letter concerning issues submitted by Mr. Jim Wood, regarding the adequacy of evacuation routes around Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO). The Region VI staff met with Director Snellings of the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management and his staff from the Nuclear Planning and Response Programs Office, in Russellville, Arkansas. The enclosed letter from Director Snellings reemphasizes the adequacies of Logan County's Radiological Emergency Response Plan, the passability of the county roads, and contingency actions and alternatives available to Logan County and the State.

As you may be aware, this same subject was addressed through a series of visits, meetings, and letters during 1988. As in 1988 and through demonstration in subsequent graded exercises, the approved plans are adequate to protect the health and safety of the residents living within the emergency planning zone of ANO.

The Branch Chief, Technological Hazards Program, FEMA Region VI, has prepared the enclosed memorandum that reflects the State's thorough review and assessment of the emergency evacuation planning for Logan County, Arkansas.

Based on the enclosed documentation, we support the Regional Office's assessment of the emergency evacuation plan for Arkansas Nuclear One.

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



Arkansas Department of Health

4315 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Fay W. Boozman, M.D. Director
Mike Huckabee, Governor

July 27, 2000

Mr. Larry Earp
Regional Assistance Committee Chairperson
FEMA Region VI
Region VI Federal Center, 800 North Loop 288
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

Dear Mr. Earp:

As requested in your letter of June 22, 2000 the Nuclear Planning and Response Program staff, working in concert with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and Logan County officials, has reviewed the "Radiological Emergency Response Plan" for Logan County.

The concern about potential impediments to evacuation is fully addressed in NUREG-0654 which requires that plans address evacuation within the Emergency Planning Zone. Plans are to include identification of and the means to deal with potential impediments to evacuation routes, including the seasonal passability of roads. These requirements are included in the above referenced plan and have been reviewed and approved by your agency. The ability to implement this plan has been successfully demonstrated in evaluated exercises over the past 18 years.

The likelihood of an event requiring evacuation coinciding with a severe weather emergency is very low. Even so, a variety of protective actions would be available to protect public health and safety. As you may know, the State of Arkansas considers sheltering as a possible protective action for limited use such as during a major ice or snow storm. If additional assistance was needed by local governments, a State of Emergency would be declared by the Governor and the National Guard and other State agencies would be mobilized to provide additional manpower and equipment. Individuals with special needs could be selectively evacuated as necessary.

We therefore conclude that the existing planning options are adequate to meet the requirements of NUREG-0654 and will ensure that we continue to protect the health and welfare of the citizens in the counties surrounding ANO.

Sincerely,

David D. Snelling Jr., CHP, Director
Division of Radiation Control &
Emergency Management

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