

August 10, 2001

Mr. Myron Knudson, Director
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6, 6SF
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Knudson:

I am writing this letter on the behalf of my staff and Agency to express our appreciation for the outstanding support we received from Mr. James Mullins of your organization.

At 9:58 p.m. CDT, on July 15, 2001, one of our power reactor licensees, the Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3, located approximately twenty miles west of New Orleans, LA, declared an "Alert" based on an ammonia release at a nearby chemical facility. An Alert is the second lowest level in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) four-tiered emergency response plan. The initial information received by my Headquarters Operation Officer from our licensee was sketchy and did not describe the nature or extent of the chemical release or offsite response. By prior arrangement with your Agency, we contacted the Environmental Protection Agency's On-Scene Coordinator as part of our decision-making process for events involving chemical and gas releases. Mr. Mullins was familiar with the situation and provided very detailed information regarding the on-going event, including periodic updates to the situation and the response actions being taken. The concise explanation of the event and potential consequences provided by Mr. Mullins factored heavily in our decision to escalate the NRC's response to the event.

I appreciate your Agency's support and wish to thank Mr. Mullins personally for his contribution to our mission of ensuring public health and safety. His performance in the role of On-Scene Coordinator during the aforementioned event sets a model for technical competence and professionalism.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Joseph J. Holonich
Acting For/***

Richard H. Wessman, Director
Incident Response Operations

August 10, 2001

Mr. Myron Knudson, Director
 Superfund Division
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Region 6, 6SF
 1445 Ross Avenue
 Suite 1200
 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Knudson:

I am writing this letter on the behalf of my staff and Agency to express our appreciation for the outstanding support we received from Mr. James Mullins of your organization.

At 9:58 p.m. CDT, on July 15, 2001, one of our power reactor licensees, the Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit 3, located approximately twenty miles west of New Orleans, LA, declared an "Alert" based on an ammonia release at a nearby chemical facility. An Alert is the second lowest level in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) four-tiered emergency response plan. The initial information received by my Headquarters Operation Officer from our licensee was sketchy and did not describe the nature or extent of the chemical release or offsite response. By prior arrangement with your Agency, we contacted the Environmental Protection Agency's On-Scene Coordinator as part of our decision-making process for events involving chemical and gas releases. Mr. Mullins was familiar with the situation and provided very detailed information regarding the on-going event, including periodic updates to the situation and the response actions being taken. The concise explanation of the event and potential consequences provided by Mr. Mullins factored heavily in our decision to escalate the NRC's response to the event.

I appreciate your Agency's support and wish to thank Mr. Mullins personally for his contribution to our mission of ensuring public health and safety. His performance in the role of On-Scene Coordinator during the aforementioned event sets a model for technical competence and professionalism.

Sincerely,
/RA by Joseph J. Holonich
Acting For/
 Richard H. Wessman, Director
 Incident Response Operations

DISTRIBUTION:IRO R/F

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\Stransky\Letter of Appreciation.wpd IRO No.: #1 (8/9/01)

ACCESSION NO.: ML012220226 TEMPLATE NO.: IRO-002

Non-Public Public Sensitive Non-Sensitive

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box C=Copy w/o attachment/enclosure E=Copy with attachment/enclosure N = No copy

OFFICE	SC:IRO	DD:IRO	D:IRO
NAME	NMamish	JJHolonich	RHWessmanJJH1
DATE	08/09/01	08/10/01	08/10/01

OFFICIAL FILE COPY