

April 9, 2002

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

Dear Congressman Markey:

By letter dated June 1, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman, Richard A. Meserve, responded to your letter of April 13, 2001, in which you expressed concern about the partial loss of offsite power at the Seabrook nuclear plant during a winter storm on March 5, 2001. In that letter we enclosed responses to your specific questions.

In our response to your question regarding provisions in the Seabrook emergency action plan for the possibility of a radiological emergency during a severe winter snowstorm, we informed you that we had requested certain information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and that we would forward that information to you when we received it.

By letter dated June 1, 2001, FEMA Region I provided its initial response to our request. The NRC staff requested clarifying information. FEMA Region I provided that clarifying information in a letter to the NRC staff and FEMA headquarters dated September 27, 2001. In December 2001, FEMA headquarters confirmed that the September 27, 2001, letter was FEMA's final response to our request. Copies of the June 1 and September 27, 2001, letters from FEMA Region I are included as Enclosures 1 and 2, respectively.

As discussed in FEMA's two letters, during the initial emergency planning process, the licensee developed evacuation times using estimates during severe weather events as well as moderate weather conditions. FEMA evaluates the community's ability to evacuate during adverse weather conditions during the biennial emergency preparedness exercises.

We appreciate your concern regarding this event. If you have further comments or questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by L. Portner for

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures: As stated

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Response of June 1, 2001: ML011150014

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*See previous concurrence.

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