

March 20, 2003

Vanessa E. Quinn, Branch Chief
Radiological Preparedness Branch
Technological Services Division
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Ms. Quinn:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) official, to participate as a panelist in the New Reactors/Advance Reactors Breakout Session of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Regulatory Information Conference (RIC). The NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is sponsoring the annual RIC as a forum for managers from NRC, its regulated utilities, and other interested stakeholders to meet and discuss trends and initiatives for improving nuclear safety. The 15th Annual RIC will be held Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 16, 17, and 18, 2003, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Streets, NW, Washington, DC. The focus of the subject breakout session to be held from 2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on April 17, 2003, is to discuss the review process for the three early site permit (ESP) applications which is expected to be filed in June and September of this year.

Under the NRC's regulations in Part 52 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, "Early Site Permits, Standard Design Certifications, and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants," the NRC can issue an ESP for approval of one or more sites for possible future construction of a nuclear power plant or plants. The issuance of an ESP is separate from the issuance of a license to construct or operate a nuclear power plant. The review of an ESP addresses site safety issues, environmental protection issues, and emergency preparedness, independent of the review of a specific nuclear plant design. Should an ESP be issued, the ESP holder could reference the ESP in seeking, at some time during the term of the ESP, a license to construct or operate a nuclear power plant or plants on the approved site.

Given FEMA's role in the emergency preparedness review for an ESP we look forward to your participation on the subject panel in order to share your perspective and understandings of the regulatory issues involved in this process. Please contact Ronaldo Jenkins of my staff no later than March 31, 2003, by e-mail at rvj@nrc.gov or by telephone at 301-415-2895 regarding the availability of yourself or someone on your staff to represent FEMA at the RIC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James E. Lyons, Director
New Reactor Licensing Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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James E. Lyons, Director
New Reactor Licensing Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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