

August 20, 2003

Anne Wolff, President
Berkeley Township Council
Township of Berkeley
Pinewald-Keswick Road
P.O. Box B
Bayville, NJ 08721

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

Dear Ms. Wolff:

This letter is in response to a conversation you had on August 1, 2003 with Robert Summers, the Senior Resident Inspector at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Oyster Creek). You requested that the NRC provide you with a letter which briefly described the delineation of responsibility between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for emergency preparedness at nuclear power plants.

NRC regulations require that comprehensive emergency plans be prepared and periodically exercised to assure that actions can and will be taken to protect citizens in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant. Federal oversight of radiological emergency planning and preparedness associated with commercial nuclear facilities involves both FEMA and the NRC. While the NRC has overall responsibility, FEMA takes the lead in reviewing and assessing offsite planning and response and in assisting State and local governments. The NRC reviews and assesses the licensees' onsite planning and response. We work closely with and support FEMA in its assessment of offsite emergency preparedness. We have passed Berkeley Township's request for an independent comprehensive evacuation study on to FEMA. You can contact FEMA directly at the following address:

FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

Federal evaluation of emergency preparedness is an ongoing process. Commercial nuclear power plants are required to regularly conduct exercises to demonstrate their ability to implement their emergency plans. Based on the most recent full-scale emergency exercise for Oyster Creek, conducted on June 4, 2002, both FEMA and the NRC determined that the plans in place for the plant provide reasonable assurance that the public would be protected. The next emergency exercise for Oyster Creek is scheduled for September of this year. This exercise will be observed and evaluated by both the NRC and FEMA. We also recognize that emergency plans must be regularly reviewed and improved. In this regard, it is our understanding that the evacuation time estimates for the affected communities around Oyster Creek are currently being updated using the latest Census data.

Anne Wolff, President
Township of Berkeley

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If you have any further questions regarding Oyster Creek, please feel free to contact Neil Perry of my staff at (610) 337-5225.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc: State of New Jersey
J. Picciano, Acting Regional Director, FEMA Region II

Anne Wolff, President
Township of Berkeley

Distribution: (Via E-Mail)

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*Per teleconference w/TWalker 8/15/03