



FEMA

June 30, 2004

Mr. N. Chris Roberie, Administrator
Office of Environmental Compliance
LDEQ P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Dear Mr. Roberie:

This letter officially informs you of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) identification of a Deficiency during the River Bend Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise conducted on June 9, 2004. This issue was discussed during the post-exercise participants briefing on June 10, 2004.

The Deficiency is being assessed against the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under Evaluation Area Criterion 5.a.3: *Activities associated with FEMA approved exception areas (where applicable) are completed within 45 minutes following the initial decision by authorized offsite emergency officials to notify the public of an emergency situation. Backup alert and notification of the public is completed within 45 minutes following the detection by the ORO of a failure of the primary alert and notification system. (NUREG-0654, E.6, Appendix 3.B.2.c).*

During the exercise conducted on June 9, 2004, East Baton Rouge Parish contacted the State EOC to "Ensure the state police helicopter had been dispatched" as is required by the implementing procedure for the East Baton Rouge Parish, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The response to this request was recorded as "state has notified us that LSP helicopter will not fly due to the release." Exception area alerting, as required for River Bend, could not be completed (and cannot be considered to be demonstrated for exercise purposes) as a result of this response.

We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with FEMA headquarters and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. FEMA defines a Deficiency as "...an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant." While this is not an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance, the Radiological Assistance Committee (RAC) Chairperson has determined

Mr. N. Chris Roberie, Administrator
June 30, 2004
Page 2

that the failure to demonstrate the criterion was not justified and that the criterion should be classified as a Deficiency so that demonstration of this evaluation area criterion can be completed as authorized by the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program manual.

Because of the potential impact on the public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days after the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please coordinate with this office the date and time of the pertinent remedial actions and identity of the participants within 10 days from the date of this letter.

Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region VI, at (940) 898-5199.

Sincerely,

Ron Castleman
Regional Director

cc: Vanessa Quinn, FEMA HQ
William A. Maier, NRC Region IV
Prosanta Chowdhury, LDEQ