

**FROM THE DESK OF DAVID WEISMAN**

June 12, 2004

Thomas P. Gwynn  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Dear Mr. Gwynn:

Thank you for your time and consideration at the public forum held in San Luis Obispo, California, on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

As a follow-up to many of the points I made, I am herein providing you with "links" and contact information so that you may obtain copies of the supplemental information and data from which I drew the facts presented at the hearings. As I mentioned, I believe it is disingenuous for the NRC to continue to maintain that:

- 1) The sirens were operational 99.7% of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when in fact the "mere" 5 hours during which they failed were in fact the *only* 5 hours when they *might* actually have been necessary (had the earthquake exceeded the design basis). This makes a mockery of awarding the alert and notification systems with a "green" symbol on the first quarter 2004 safety matrix, since none of the upgrades and back-ups to the sirens are in place. Remember, the Space Shuttle also works 99% of the time, but when it fails, it fails catastrophically.
- 2) "Alternate systems of alert and notification are available through the county." Again, I point out that in several instances, the garage doors on the police stations or fire departments jammed shut due to the effects of the earthquake, rendering those vehicles useless. There was also a loss of power by nearly 25% of the county residents, meaning most easily accessible media communications were out of reach (anecdotal evidence points out that most people did not have adequately prepared emergency gear with a battery powered radio).

Please use the following contacts to reach the California State Seismic Commission and request a copy of the minutes or a verbatim audio-cassette of the following public hearings:

State Seismic Safety Commission hearing: March 11, 2004, Paso Robles, California  
Thursday afternoon session:

4:00 PM – Seismology /Geology/Engineering Panel featuring Mike Reichle, Acting State Geologist; and Mr. Lew Rosenberg, San Luis Obispo County geologist describe roads blocked by boulders.  
5:00 PM – Lifelines and Power Plants Panel featuring (among others) Ms. Christine Ferrara, Utilities Division Manager, San Luis Obispo County. It was her report that identified the failures in cellular phone communications and the fact that small scale, informal emergency response plans don't work well, even on small systems.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Richard J. McCarthy, Executive Director  
State Seismic Commission  
1755 Creekside Oaks Dr. # 100  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Tel: (916) 263-5502  
e-mail: [mccarthy@stateseismic.com](mailto:mccarthy@stateseismic.com)

Their website (where a precis of the minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found):  
[www.seismic.ca.gov](http://www.seismic.ca.gov)

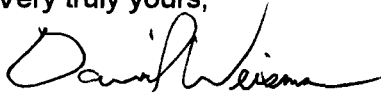
For the San Luis Obispo information you may contact:  
Christine Ferrara, PE  
SLO County Public Works Dept.  
County Government Center Room 207  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Tel: (805) 781-5272  
e-mail: [cferrara@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:cferrara@co.slo.ca.us)

I trust that you will follow up on these contacts and investigate these lapses in emergency planning and preparedness. We cannot wait for a disaster—be it terrorism or natural—to test the system. The NRC must be proactive in regulating for safety, as is your mandate. The above contacts should provide you with regional and local data that you may not be receiving, either from your field representatives or the utility involved. It is now a national priority that various agencies—from FEMA to the local allies—coordinate their activities.

Please keep me informed of your progress with this investigation and any changes in NRC requirements as a result of this information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



David Weisman

cc: Rochelle Becker, Mothers for Peace  
cc: David Sneed, [The Tribune](#)