

January 18, 2005

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its emergency planning regulations governing the domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities. The final rule amends 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E to require NRC review of emergency action levels (EALs) for applicants for initial reactor operating licenses and initial combined licenses (COL) and for licensees who are converting from one EAL scheme (e.g., NUREG-0654 based) to another EAL scheme (e.g., NUMARC/NESP-007 or NEI-99-01 based), as well as revisions to EALs that decrease the effectiveness of the emergency plan. This practice has been shown to maintain safety and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden for licensees in revising their EALs. Licensees can make minor EAL changes promptly and efficiently without undue NRC oversight.

Additionally, the final rule codifies the current practice of co-located licensees alternating participation in the full (or partial) participation biennial exercises of the offsite plans, with the current level of other activities and interaction between the licensees and offsite authorities at the affected site as acceptable.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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January 18, 2005

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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