

November 1, 2005

The Honorable Dennis Kucinich
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kucinich:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of September 20, 2005, concerning the effectiveness of radiological emergency response plans for nuclear power plants. You specifically requested the technical basis for sheltering in place, the complete radiological emergency response plan for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, and portions of the radiological emergency response plans that relate to adverse weather for each nuclear power plant that is located on the Great Lakes.

The final decision regarding which protective action to implement during a radiological emergency is made by State and local decision makers. This decision is based on multiple factors, including the goal of dose reduction. Licensees and Federal agencies are responsible for providing appropriate recommendations to assist the State and local decision makers in making this decision.

NRC regulations require the development of a range of protective actions for the plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone for emergency workers and the public. The regulations require licensees to consider sheltering and evacuation, along with the use of potassium iodide as appropriate in developing this range of actions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs) provide additional guidance on the implementation of sheltering as a protective action. The EPA PAGs reflect EPA's judgment concerning levels of risk to public health from radiation exposure. Evacuation, full or partial, is usually the preferred protective action. Sheltering may be appropriate during severe weather conditions, for releases of a short duration, and when local physical factors impede evacuation. Each NRC licensed nuclear power plant has a site specific process for determining the appropriate protective action to recommend to the State and local decision makers that takes into consideration the plant condition, duration of the radiological release, the projected evacuation time, and other factors, including meteorological conditions and the condition of roads and major traffic ways.

The complete radiological emergency response plan for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant and portions of the radiological emergency response plans that relate to adverse weather for each nuclear power plant that is located on the Great Lakes are provided as enclosures to this letter.

If you have further questions related to this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosures: See next page

Enclosures:

- A. Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan, dated February 23, 2004.

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure RA-EP-02245, effective June 8, 2005.

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan Offnormal Occurrence Procedure RA-EP-02870, effective November 13, 2002.

Section 8 of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Evacuation Time Estimate Study.

- B. Section 6.0, Emergency Measures, of the Perry Emergency Plan.

Page 6-3 of the Perry Evacuation Time Estimate Study.

Perry Operations Manual Emergency Plan Implementing Instruction, Protective Actions and Guides, dated December 8, 2004.

Perry Operations Manual Emergency Plan Implementing Instruction, Personnel Accountability/site Evacuation, dated December 3, 2004.

- C. Section J, Protective Response, of the Fermi II Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

Fermi 2 RERP Plan Implementing Procedure, Protective Action Recommendations.

Fermi 2 RERP Plan Implementing Procedure, Assembly and Accountability and Onsite Protective Actions.

- D. Appendix C, Population Distribution and Evacuation Time Estimates, of the Palisades Nuclear Plant Site Emergency Plan.

Palisades Nuclear Plant Emergency Implementing Procedure, Protective Action Recommendations for Offsite Populations, dated September 19, 2005.

- E. Section J, Protective Response, of the D.C. Cook Emergency Plan.

Emergency Response Procedure PMP-2080-EPP-100, effective June 30, 2005.

- F. Part 6, Emergency Measures, of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Emergency Plan Manual, dated March 4, 2004.

Appendix J, Evacuation Time Estimates for the Area Surrounding the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Emergency Plan Manual, dated August 12, 2005.

Letter dated August 29, 2005, Revision To Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures, and Point Beach Nuclear Plant Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures Dose Assessment and Protective Action Recommendations, effective July 29, 2005.

G. Section 6, Emergency Measures, of the Kewaunee Emergency Plan.

Appendix H, Evacuation Time Estimates, of the Kewaunee Emergency Plan.

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure, Determining Protective Action Recommendations, dated January 13, 2005.

H. Pages 45-50 of the Ginna Station Emergency Plan.

Appendix G, Analysis of Evacuation Travel Times, of the Ginna Station Emergency Plan.

Ginna Station Discretionary Actions for Emergency Conditions, effective April 28, 2005.

Ginna Station Planning for Adverse Weather, effective March 11, 2005.

Ginna Station Protective Action Recommendations, effective January 21, 2005.

Letter of Agreement Between the Ginna Station and National Weather Service, dated January 14, 2005.

I. Appendix F Evacuation Time Estimates for the James A. FitzPatrick/Nine Mile Point Emergency Planning Zone (Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station and James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Station are collocated therefore, this evaluation is identical for both stations and to conserve resources only one evaluation is provided), and Section 6, Demand Estimation For Evacuation Scenarios.

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure, Off-Site Dose Assessment and Protective Action Recommendation, effective December 19, 2003.

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure, Natural Hazard Preparation and Recovery, effective November 27, 2000.

Pages 6-16 and 6-17 of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Emergency Plan.

J. Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure, Dose Assessment Calculations EAP-4, effective December 3, 2003.