

October 29, 2007

Mr. Dennis Schrader, Deputy Administrator  
National Preparedness Directorate  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Schrader:

I am writing to thank you and your staff for your efforts to complete a thorough and timely review of the status of offsite emergency preparedness surrounding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), following the outbreak of wildfires in the area.

SONGS had planned to restart Unit 2 after a maintenance outage the week of October 21, 2007. However, due to the numerous wildfires that erupted, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that a Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) was warranted. FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) worked cooperatively to address the equipment and staffing capabilities needed to implement the onsite and offsite Radiological Emergency Plans such that there would be reasonable assurance of off-site emergency response capabilities.

FEMA, through its Regional resources in the Oakland Field office (FEMA Region IX), coordinated with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to complete the comprehensive review of the ability of State and local response organizations to adequately respond to an incident at SONGS. The NRC is appreciative of the dedication of all FEMA staff, but in particular would like to send special recognition to two individuals in FEMA's Oakland Field Office, Mr. Harry Sherwood, Section Chief, and Mr. Richard Echavarria, Site Specialist for SONGS, who worked long hours to complete the review.

We are equally grateful to Ms. Vanessa Quinn of FEMA Headquarters for her dedication to seeing this task to completion through the early morning hours of October 26.

Please extend our thanks to Ms. Quinn, Messrs. Sherwood and Echavarria, and all your FEMA staff.

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If you wish to further discuss these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

cc: M. Leach (NSIR/OD)  
A. McMurray (NSIR)  
L. Gibney, (NSIR)

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