UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

February 12, 2008

Jack Colley, Chief
Governor's Division of Emergency Management
Texas Department of Public Safety
Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0223

SUBJECT: NRC PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT EVALUATED EXERCISE ON JULY 23, 2008

Dear Mr. Colley:

Each year, NRC Region IV participates in selected licensee exercises. This gives the NRC the opportunity to demonstrate its ability to interface with licensees as well as state and other Federal agencies. On July 23, 2008, South Texas Project will conduct an exercise of its emergency plan. The NRC will participate in this exercise with staff at the following locations:

- Region IV Incident Response Center, Arlington, TX
- South Texas Project Emergency Operations Facility
- South Texas Project Joint Information Center
- State of Texas Emergency Operations Center (if requested by the State)

We recognize that these exercises are very important to the licensee as well as offsite response organizations and that the success of the exercise depends heavily upon the coordination activities leading up to the exercise. We want to be sure that you are aware of our plans to participate, describe our typical coordination process, and identify potential training resources that you may want to consider.

The active portion of our exercise coordination process begins approximately 5 - 6 months prior to the exercise. During this time, our Emergency Response Coordinator schedules a meeting with the licensee to review the scenario/time line to incorporate anticipated NRC response activities and to tour licensee facilities to discuss NRC Site Team functional co-location needs. This usually allows plenty of time for minor adjustments to be made without significant impact to the planning process.

Approximately 3 - 4 months prior to the exercise, NRC management schedules a meeting or conference call with offsite officials to discuss NRC participation/support. This ensures that the offsite officials are aware of NRC's participation in the exercise and potential impact on liaison resources during the exercise.

Approximately 1 - 2 months prior to the exercise, if requested by the licensee, our Emergency Response Coordinator conducts training on the NRC response process for licensee and offsite agencies. This training is typically held at the licensee's site. This training includes general response training for exercise participants, communicator training for those positions that directly communicate with the NRC, and NRC control cell participant training.

Typically 1 - 2 months prior to the exercise, the licensee conducts a dress rehearsal. If requested by the licensee or state, the NRC will participate in the dress rehearsal with two to three people. Because of the budget impact, a formal request for NRC participation in the dress rehearsal must be made. You should direct this request to my attention. Where possible, we try to conduct the response training and dress rehearsal participation during the same trip.

The NRC is often asked to provide specialized training to support the exercise. Examples of specialized training include:

- Damage assessment training using the NRC Response Technical Manual
- Dose projection training using the NRC RASCAL code
- Instruction on the use of the Emergency Response Data System.

When possible, we will try to provide this training based on instructor availability. Because of the budget impact, a formal request for this training should be directed to me.

We look forward to working with you on this exercise. If you have questions regarding NRC's participation, exercise coordination, or specialized training, please contact Tom Andrews, Senior Emergency Response Coordinator at 817.860.8233.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Linda L. Howell, Chief
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