



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

October 1, 2009

James R. Douet, Vice President of Operations
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OFFSITE DEFICIENCY
IDENTIFIED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2009, GRAND GULF NUCLEAR
STATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Dear Mr. Douet:

Enclosed is a copy of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VI's letter to the State of Louisiana, dated September 21, 2009. The letter discusses an exercise deficiency identified during evaluation of the September 9, 2009, emergency preparedness exercise at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The Federal Emergency Management Agency defines a deficiency as "an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant." Specifically, the deficiencies were related to implementing Criterion 5.a.1, Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E and NUREG-0654, Appendix 3). The specifics of the deficiency for the State of Louisiana are described in the enclosed letter.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate FEMA's official notification of the deficiency in accordance with the NRC-FEMA Memorandum of Understanding. No response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required.

The NRC encourages Grand Gulf Nuclear Station to work with the appropriate offsite governmental agencies to ensure a timely resolution of this issue. The NRC will continue to monitor the status of this issue. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the NRC and FEMA will assess the progress made toward resolution of this issue by approximately January 18, 2010, and will decide at that time if additional measures are necessary.

If the issue is not resolved by January 18, 2010, FEMA may withdraw the finding of reasonable assurance according to the requirements of 44 CFR 350.13(a). At that time the NRC would take appropriate action according to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(s)(2) and 50.54(s)(3).

J. Douet

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any further questions, please contact Gilbert L. Guerra at (817) 276-6557.

Sincerely,



Michael Shannon, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-416
License: NPF-29

Enclosure:

FEMA Region VI Letter to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality,
dated September 21, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No.: ML092710249)

cc w/enclosure:
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3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
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FEMA

September 21, 2009

Jeffrey P. Meyers, Administrator
Radiation Control Program Director
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Attention: OEC-ERSD
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Dear Mr. Meyers:

This letter officially informs you of the Federal Emergency Management Agency identification of a Deficiency which occurred during the Grand Gulf Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise conducted on September 9, 2009. This issue was discussed during the post exercise participants briefing on September 10, 2009.

The Deficiency is being assessed against Tensas Parish under evaluation criteria 5.a.1. Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) equipment used to transmit the EAS message from the radio station (KNOE) is located in a studio that is not equipped with an uninterruptible power supply. The radio station moved to a new location and there is no back-up power supply. If the parish needed to alert the public during an emergency, the EAS message would not be broadcast in a timely manner during a power outage.

The requirement for back-up power is addressed in NUREG 0654, FEMA REP 1, Appendix 3. It states, *"The prompt notification scheme shall include the capability of local and state agencies to provide information promptly over radio and TV at the time of activation of the alerting signal. The communications system to mobilize forces and warn the public is dependent upon communication between the nuclear power facility and government authorities (federal, state and local). The system must be capable of 24-hour coverage at the facility and primary points; have capability for immediate dissemination of information; and receipt and acknowledgement of alert and warning messages on a 24-hour basis. The system should be able to function not withstanding adverse environmental conditions, such as floods and power outages."*

We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with DHS-FEMA Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). FEMA defines a Deficiency as *"...an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that off-site emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant."*

Mr. Jeffrey P. Meyers
September 21, 2009
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Because of the potential impact on public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days of the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please let us know the timing of these remedial actions and the identities of the Tensas Parish and radio station participants who will be involved.

Your reply is required within ten days from the date of this letter, and your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. Please contact Lisa Hammond, Regional Assistance Committee Chair, at (940) 898-5199 with any questions relating to this letter.

Sincerely,



for Gary Jones
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Vanessa Quinn - FEMA HQ
Elmo Collins - NRC Region IV
Rick Foster - Tensas Parish

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