

STATE OF NEBRASKA



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1 October 2009

Arthur Freeman, Acting Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114-3372

Subject: Response to the Fort Calhoun July 21, 2009 Draft Exercise Report

Ref: (a) 13 August 2009 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Response Letter to the 4 August 2009 FEMA Region VII Letter of Notification of a Finding of One Deficiency

Dear Mr. Freeman:

In response to the Fort Calhoun July 21, 2009 Draft Exercise Report, concerning the finding of one deficiency for the Washington County EOC and the contributing factors, our comments in reference (a) and those made during the Wednesday, 2 September 2009 meeting at the Fort Calhoun Emergency Operation Facility stand.

As for the finding of one Area Requiring Corrective Action (ARCA) for KFAB 1110 AM Radio in that a KFAB radio employee did not ask the caller for a codeword is beyond reason. This was listed as part of the cause for the deficiency and now indicates "a piling one". Further, a codeword has not been used in communications between the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and KFAB for at least the past 6 six years, is not required by the State Radiological Emergency Response Plan and has never been brought up as a planning or exercise issue in that time.

The Nebraska State Radiological Emergency Response Plan has not delineated that KFAB needed to use a codeword since at least 2003; but it does indicate that one will be used with EAS for the National Weather Service (NWS). Following an agreement in 2003 between the NWS, KFAB Radio, the involved states and counties of the region, the only agencies using a codeword have been the Risk Counties with the NWS.

Surely if this was such an issue, FEMA Region VII Technical Hazard Specialists should/would have caught it during plan reviews and other evaluators should have caught it at either a Fort Calhoun or Cooper Nuclear Station Evaluated Exercise. In neither case did this happen.

It is recommended that this be made a planning issue which already is in the process of being corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 402-471-7410.

Sincerely,



Al Berndt
Assistant Director

Cc: Vanessa Quinn, HQ REP
Lisa Gibney, NRC HQ
Bill Maier, NRC Region IV
Steve Gebers, OPPD