



FEMA

June 2, 2010

James Wiggins
Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T4D22A
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed its disaster initiated review (DIR) of the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. FEMA has verified local offsite response organizations continued capability to adequately respond to an incident at the Vermont Yankee Power Station. The DIR was undertaken in response to notification by the State of Vermont that they could not (at the time) provide required compensatory actions due to circumstances stemming from local infrastructure damage caused by the May 26 and May 27 storms.

On May 28, 2010, a comprehensive investigation and collection of field data was performed by a joint FEMA/Nuclear Regulatory Commission DIR Team, in accordance with FEMA's Post Disaster Assessment of Offsite Capabilities standard operating procedure.

Based on our thorough review of all of this information gathered, FEMA concludes that offsite radiological emergency preparedness remains adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the Vermont Yankee Power Station. At this time, FEMA is not aware of any unresolved offsite emergency preparedness issues within the Vermont Yankee Power Station EPZ, and therefore, we have no concerns with regards to plant restart and full-power operations.

Please find enclosed a copy of the FEMA Region I DIR Report for the Vermont Yankee Power Station for your information. Once you have an opportunity to review this documentation, please contact me at (202)212-2205, if you have any questions or require any further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James R. Kish".

James R. Kish
Director
Technological Hazards Division



FEMA

June 2, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: James Kish, Director
Technological Hazards Division

FROM: Steven Colman, RAC Chair
FEMA Region I 

THROUGH: Vanessa Quinn, Branch Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP)

SUBJECT: Disaster-Initiated Review – Vermont Yankee Nuclear
Power Station

Background:

On May 26 and 27, 2010, a severe thunderstorm and wind event affected the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities surrounding Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY). VY was shutdown on May 26, 2010 prior to the storm due to an unrelated event. The storm impacted the EPZ communities in the State of Vermont and to a lesser extent those in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and State of New Hampshire.

On May 27, 2010, the Vermont State Emergency Management Director notified FEMA of her concern that the EPZ communities' emergency response capabilities could have been impacted by the storm. Specifically, concerns existed regarding EPZ communities' communication capabilities, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functionality, and evacuation route blockages.

On Friday, May 28, 2010, FEMA Region I's REP staff conducted reviews for Post Disaster Assessment of Off-Site Capabilities. The team in Vermont consisted of a representative from the State of Vermont's Radiological Emergency Response Program, one from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, one from Entergy Nuclear, and representatives from FEMA Region I's REP Program. The team in Massachusetts consisted of a representative from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and one from FEMA Region I's REP Program. The team in New Hampshire consisted of a representative from New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and one from FEMA Region I's REP Program.

Assessment:

1. Emergency Response Facilities

No issues were identified at any emergency response facilities.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified; communications were verified with all Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in the EPZ.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

2. Communications

Communications were found to be adequate.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

3. Emergency Response Organizations

Emergency response organizations are sufficient to support an emergency.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

4. Public Alert and Notification

No issues were identified with the public alert and notification system; all 21 sirens are functional.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

5. Special Needs and Transportation Resources

No issues were identified relating to special needs and transportation resources.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

6. Evacuation Routes

No issues were identified relating to evacuation routes.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire

- No issues identified.

7. Accident Assessment

No issues were identified relating to accident assessment.

State of Vermont

- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire
- No issues identified.

8. Support Services

No issues were identified relating to support services.

State of Vermont
- No issues identified.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- No issues identified.

State of New Hampshire
- No issues identified.

9. Catastrophic Impact

This weather event was not catastrophic.

10. Supporting Documentation

All supporting documentation will be maintained on file at FEMA Region I.

Conclusions

Based on the results of the review, the REP plans for VY can be implemented to protect the health and safety of the general public. Therefore, in accordance with 44 CFR Part 350, approval of the offsite radiological emergency response plans and preparedness for VY will remain in effect.