



FEMA

August 10, 2010

Mr. Andrew X. Feeney, Director
New York State Office of Emergency Management
Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
1220 Washington Avenue, Bldg #22, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12226-2251

SUBJECT: FEMA Approval to Remove Legacy Siren System for Indian Point Energy Center

Dear Mr. Feeney:

The Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, NY, owned by Entergy Nuclear, has installed a completely new alert and notification system (ANS) in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), that includes 172 sirens with reliable back-up power, thus meeting the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The new system also includes supplemental tone alert radios where warranted. The new system has been the primary alerting system since it went into operation in August 2008, following FEMA's approval. Meanwhile, the legacy ("Matrikon") system of 156 sirens has remained in place as a back-up to the new ("ATI") system. It is FEMA's understanding that the four affected counties' Emergency Management Offices, the NY State Office of Emergency Management, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are all in agreement that maintaining the legacy system in standby is no longer necessary, beneficial, or desirable, and is, actually, a potential source of interference with the new system. FEMA is in agreement with this assessment.

FEMA has been evaluating the adequacy of the new system's reliability based on review of documentation provided to the State by Entergy, and during site visits. We note that the new system has much greater redundancy than the legacy system. The new siren system coverage is broader than the legacy system because there are now sirens in areas where none existed before. The new siren system provides voice capability in selected park areas. The new sirens are all equipped with a feedback system that relays the status of the sirens to consoles in each of the four affected counties (Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam) and at the Emergency Operations Facility at the plant site. If a siren fails to sound, the area affected by that siren will be notified by a back-up automated dialing system activated by the respective county.

The most recent full volume siren tests (January 27, 2010, and May 5, 2010) were satisfactory, meeting both FEMA and NRC thresholds for success (better than 97% of the sirens successfully sounded and reported as such). Additionally, there are daily and weekly "silent" tests of the sirens that ensure that the system is working reliably.

FEMA is currently performing a final review of the software that controls the system, with cooperation and support from Entergy. Once this final review is completed, and any resulting recommendations are implemented, FEMA will be in a position to fully "accept" the new system as meeting all FEMA ANS requirements to the satisfaction of our Subject Matter Experts. However, we do not wish to hold up removal of the legacy system, since removal is clearly in the best interests of the public being served by the ANS. Therefore, we request that the State of New York inform Entergy that FEMA grants approval to remove the legacy siren system from service. This approval satisfies the requirement in NRC Order EA-07-189, dated July 30, 2007, which stipulated that Entergy maintain the legacy system available until FEMA granted approval for removal.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, the FEMA Region II Technological Hazards Branch Chief and RAC Chair, Rebecca Thomson, can be reached at 212-680-8509.

Sincerely yours,



Lynn Canton
Regional Administrator

cc: Marc Dapas, Acting Regional Administrator, NRC Region I
Vanessa Quinn, REP Program Branch Chief, FEMA HQ
James Kish, Technological Hazards Division Director, FEMA HQ