



**NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.**

*a subsidiary of The Babcock & Wilcox Company*

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August 31, 2010

Mr. Luis Reyes, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Region II  
245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE, Suite 1200  
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257

**Subject: Retirement of Al Gooden**

Dear Mr. Reyes:

The nuclear industry is known for its strong Emergency Preparedness program. One of the reasons for this strength can be attributed to Mr. Al Gooden, Region II NRC Inspector, who has been a dedicated professional in Emergency Preparedness for over 25 years. Al Gooden is a legend in the field of Emergency Preparedness. He is known for his professionalism, his integrity and his expertise in health physics. Personnel at our facility at all levels, and those at other facilities, have repeated over and over their great respect for Mr. Gooden, for his knowledge of the nuclear industry, his application of that knowledge to Emergency Preparedness, and most of all for his professionalism and integrity.

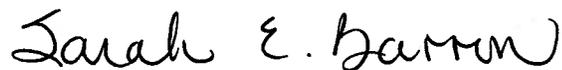
Mr. Gooden has instilled a high standard for Emergency Preparedness. His philosophy of performance-based objectives has helped facilities to continually improve. By recognizing that challenging exercises create an opportunity to identify areas of improvement, he has established an inspection environment that encourages facilities to "stretch" during exercises, to improve and expand their Emergency Preparedness capabilities. Mr. Gooden has been referred to as "Eagle Eye," because he knows his facilities, its workers, and its programs so well that he does not miss a thing during his inspections. He knows what to look for and the science to understand the relevance. While he covers compliance objectives in addition to performance-based criteria, his inspection methodology results in a desire to improve performance rather than performing only to meet compliance.

Probably the most lasting impact of Mr. Gooden's dedication to his work is his example of truly believing in, and exemplifying, the purpose and goal of Emergency Preparedness, i.e., to maintain a facility in a state of emergency response readiness to protect the workers, community and the environment. When someone of Mr. Gooden's stature truly believes in such a purpose, it is contagious and others follow, not just for compliance sake but because they also can believe in that purpose.

Upon hearing of his approaching retirement, we would like to convey our congratulations to Mr. Gooden on his well deserved retirement. We would also like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for his many meaningful contributions and positive impacts to nuclear emergency preparedness. We wish him the best with his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

**NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.**



Sarah E. Barron, Ph.D.  
Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator



B. Marie Moore  
Emergency Control Director

SEB/pj

✓ Copy: Mr. Al Gooden  
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