U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20472

FEMA

November 26, 2010

Mr. Brian McDermott
Director, Division of Preparedness and Response
Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. McDermott:

This letter is to provide an official statement of FEMA's continued determination of Reasonable Assurance for the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant (CRNPP). In September 2009, CRNPP Unit 3 was shut down for a planned refueling outage. Though this outage uncovered significant physical plant problems for Progress Energy, the physical plant findings did not represent an immediate off-site safety concern because the plant was shut down. Further, the cause of the extended outage did not at any time impair off-site response capabilities or capacity.

In anticipation of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) request for interim findings as stipulated in the NRC-FEMA Memorandum of Understanding, and as specified in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 1601, "Communication and Coordination Protocol for Determining the Status of Offsite Emergency Preparedness Following a Natural Disaster, Malevolent Act, or Extended Plant Shutdown," dated July 7, 2005, FEMA Region IV Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program conducted an assessment of reasonable assurance based on guidance contained in NUREG-0645/FEMA REP-1.

A complete plan review of the site specific plans for the CRNPP was conducted concurrently with the 2009 Levy Combined Operating License Application process. The utility's application utilized both current CRNPP plan and procedures along with the proposed Levy Nuclear Power Plant plans and procedures. This review, titled *Interim Finding Report for RAI on the Adequacy of Offsite Radiological Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness for the Proposed Levy Nuclear Plant Units* 1 *and* 2 *Levy County, Florida,* was completed on February 13, 2009 and submitted to the NRC. The staff validated that the current State of Florida, Levy and Citrus counties emergency plans have remained unchanged since completing the comprehensive plan review for CRNPP.

Also, a Site Assistance Visit (SAV) was conducted on August 16, 2010, to assist State and local governments in the day-to-day review of their Radiological Emergency Preparedness Programs. The SAV looked at Citrus and Levy Counties' radiological detection/monitoring equipment, training records and Potassium Iodide (KI) storage and handling. There were no discrepancies or problems identified during this SAV.

In addition, FEMA evaluated the capabilities of plans and procedures to be implemented in the event of a radiological release from the Crystal River site during the October 4-6, 2010 REP exercise. During this exercise, Citrus and Levy Counties and the Florida Department of Public Health successfully demonstrated the following capabilities from the Target Capabilities List: Emergency Operations Center Management (REP criteria 1.a.1, 1.c.1, 1.d.1, 1.e.1, 2.a.1, 2.b.2, 2.c.1, 3.a.1, 3.c.1, 3.d.1, 3.d.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.3, and 5.b.1), Emergency Public Information and Warning (REP criteria 1.a.1, 1.d.1, 1.e. 1, 5.a.1, and 5.b.1), Citizen Evacuation and Shelter-in-place (REP Criteria 3.c.2), Emergency Public Safety and Security Response (REP Criteria 3.d.1, 3.d.2, 5.a.3 and 5.b.1), and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination (REP criteria 1.a.1, 1.d.1, 1.e. 1 , 2.a.1, 2.b.1, 2.b.2, 4.a.1, 4.a.3, 6.a.1, and 6.b.1). There were no Areas Requiring Corrective Action (ARCA) or Deficiencies observed during this exercise.

Formal submission of the Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) for CRNPP by the State of Florida occurred on August 26, 1983. Formal approval of these plans in accordance with 44 CFR 350 was granted on February 14, 1984. Since the granting of the formal approval by FEMA the State of Florida and surrounding risk and host communities have actively participated in ongoing planning, training and exercising to sustain and improve the capabilities required to provide for the health and safety of the public surrounding the CRNPP.

As a result of the comprehensive plan reviews, the results of the ongoing exercise evaluation process, and Florida's continual response to real life emergencies, FEMA reaffirms the original administrative finding that there is reasonable assurance that public health and safety can be protected by the implementation of the established plans and procedures for responding to a radiological emergency at the CRNPP.

If there should be any questions, please contact Mr. Albert Coons, Section Chief, Reasonable Assurance, at 202-212-2318.

Sincerely,

Vanessa E. Quinn
Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch

cc: C. Burnside, FEMA Region IV
D. Vaughn, FEMA Region IV