

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 09/19/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110645
DOC DT: 08/29/11
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Edward J. Markey

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 11-0509

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

Reevaluate and Upgrade Protection Against
Hurricanes and Other Extreme Weather Events at
Nuclear Power Plants/Near-Term Task Force Report
on Fukushima (EDATS: SECY-2011-0491)

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Leeds, NRR
Dean, RI
Wiggins, NSIR
McCree, RII
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 08/31/11

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

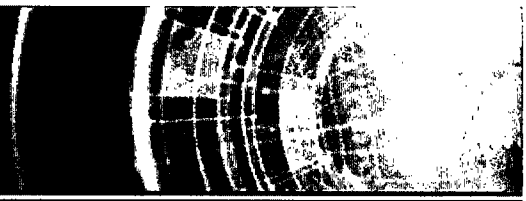
Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR, NSIR,
Region I and Region II to provide input to Roger
Rihm, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate
response with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0491

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 9/19/2011 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 9/21/2011 11:00 PM

Subject: Reevaluate and Upgrade Protection Against Hurricanes and Other Extreme Weather Events at Nuclear Power Plants/Near-Term Task Force Report on Fukushima

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; NSIR; RegionI; RegionIV; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110645, LTR-11-0509

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Sensitivity: None

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR, NSIR, Region I and Region II to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Representative Edward J. Markey

Date of Incoming: 8/29/2011

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 8/31/2011

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Aug 31, 2011 10:00

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-11-0509 **LOGGING DATE:** 08/30/2011
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Edward Markey
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Urging the NRC to re-evaluate and, as necessary, upgrade the protections against hurricanes and other extreme weather events in light of the multiple challenges faced by nuclear power plants during Hurricane Irene this past weekend.

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 08/²⁷~~30~~/2011

ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 09/21/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20110645

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

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<http://markey.house.gov>

August 29, 2011

The Honorable Greg Jaczko
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I write to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to re-evaluate and, as necessary, upgrade the protections against hurricanes and other extreme weather events in light of the multiple challenges faced by nuclear power plants during Hurricane Irene this past weekend. I additionally ask once again that you immediately move to adopt the recommendation of NRC's Near-Term Task Force Report^[2] on Fukushima to require the re-evaluation of seismic and flooding hazards every 10 years and address any new and significant information to ensure that nuclear power plants are protected against these hazards.

Hurricane Irene's strong winds presented considerable challenges to numerous nuclear power plants:

- Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 (MD) nuclear reactor shut down automatically after a large piece of metal siding blew off a building and contacted high energy lines associated with a main transformer. One of its emergency diesel generators was found to be inoperable due to flooding of its circuitry, and 66 out of 73 emergency sirens at the plant were out of service.
- The power at Millstone Units 2 and 3 nuclear reactors (CT) was reduced as a precaution, the spent fuel pool at the decommissioning Unit 1 lost power for its cooling system, and Unit 3 lost one of six water circulation pumps.
- The Oyster Creek (NJ) nuclear reactor shut down as a precaution, and 10 of 42 emergency sirens lost function.
- 51 of 97 emergency sirens at Peach Bottom nuclear power plant (PA), lost function.
- 49 of the 172 emergency sirens at the Indian Point nuclear power plant (NY) and 74 of 113 emergency sirens at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant (MA) had to be placed on backup battery power
- An off-site electrical line to the Surry nuclear power plant in VA was lost.
- The power at the Brunswick nuclear power plant in NC was reduced as a precaution.

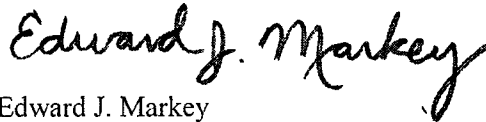
^[2] <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1118/ML111861807.pdf>

The NRC's July 12 Task Force report recommended that protections to address seismic and flooding threats at each nuclear power plant be periodically revised to incorporate the most up-to-date information regarding those threats. It also observed that the "Extreme Damage Mitigation Guidelines (EDMGs)" adopted at nuclear power plants after the attacks of September 11 2011 in order to mitigate the impacts of a terrorist attack did not consider the potential for the same impacts to be caused by extreme weather events such as hurricanes.

In light of the widespread challenges to nuclear power plants caused by Hurricane Irene, as well as the potential that global warming could increase both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, I urge you to quickly incorporate hurricanes and other strong storms into the safety and emergency response upgrades the Commission is currently undertaking.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Dr. Michal Freedhoff of my staff at 202-225-2836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey