

September 9, 2011

Ms. Mary Flagg
Township Manager
East Vincent Township
262 Ridge Road
Spring City, PA 19475

Dear Ms. Flagg:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I am responding to your letter of August 1, 2011, to Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary of the Commission, regarding an unexpected siren test in your area. In your letter, you expressed concern regarding the lack of pre-notification of this siren test to you and your community.

Since Exelon (the licensee for Limerick Generating Station) is responsible for the siren system, we contacted the company's Emergency Preparedness Manager to learn more details on this matter. In addition, Steve Barr, a Senior Emergency Preparedness Inspector in NRC Region I, contacted you directly for more details. We also understand that Vince Cwietniewicz, Exelon's MidAtlantic EP Manager, spoke with you directly in late August regarding this matter and reassured you that your township would be appropriately notified of such future siren tests. We note that Limerick is in the process of installing new sirens that have backup power from a battery. Exelon is currently awaiting approval of the new sirens from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In the interim, Exelon continues to rely on the existing siren system, but must perform monthly testing on both the existing and new siren systems.

It is our understanding that your township was provided an email notification on June 3, 2011, of a planned acceptance test of the new siren system scheduled for June 6th. Unfortunately, this email was sent to the address of the individual who had been your Emergency Management Coordinator, but it turns out was no longer employed by the township. It is unfortunate that this communication was missed and that as a result, you and members of your community were startled by the June 6th test. It is our understanding that corrective actions have been taken to prevent recurrence.

M. Flagg

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We are glad we could help resolve this matter. Please note that if you have more detailed questions in matters regarding the siren system or emergency preparedness for your township, we may need to refer you to FEMA, which has jurisdiction for offsite emergency preparedness around our nuclear reactor licensee sites. If we can be of more assistance, please contact Steve Barr of my staff at 610-337-5316.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

M. Flagg

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Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

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