



FEMA

November 4, 2013

Robert Lewis, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Three White Flint North
11601 Landsdown Street
Mail Stop: 3WFN-09B16
North Bethesda, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed its Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) of the States of Nebraska and Iowa and local offsite response organizations on October 31, 2013 (see attachment). It has been determined that State and local governments maintained the capability to adequately respond to an incident at the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station following severe flooding that affected Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities' communications, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functionality, and possibly blocked evacuation routes.

Based on our review of all of this information, FEMA concludes that offsite radiological emergency preparedness (REP) is adequate to provide Reasonable Assurance that appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station. At this time, FEMA is not aware of any unresolved offsite emergency preparedness issues around Fort Calhoun, and therefore, we have no objections to plant startup and full-power operations.

A report compiled by Region VII staff can be provided upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact Albert Coons at (202) 212-2318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Mitchell".

Andrew Mitchell
Director
Technological Hazards Division

Attachment

cc: Vanessa Quinn, Branch Chief, REP (Headquarters)
Ronald McCabe, RAC Chair Region VII (FEMA)



FEMA

October 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Andrew Mitchell, Director
Technological Hazards Division
National Preparedness Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security-FEMA

ATTENTION: Vanessa Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch
Technological Hazards Division
National Preparedness Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security-FEMA

FROM: *Ronald L. McCabe*
Ron McCabe, RAC Chair/Chief
Technological Hazards Branch
National Preparedness Division
USDHS-FEMA Region VII

SUBJECT: Disaster Initiated Review- Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station

Background:

Omaha Public Power District's (OPPD) Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station (FCNS) declared an Unusual Event (UE) at 8:00 am (CDT) on June 6, 2011, as a result of severe flooding of the Missouri River. The plant was already in shut down status for scheduled maintenance prior to the river flooding. The flood event caused significant, but not catastrophic, damage on site at FCNS and in portions of the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) in; Washington County, NE; Harrison County, IA; and Pottawattamie County, IA. Presidential disaster declarations were signed for both states that comprise the EPZ: EM-3323 in Nebraska and DR-1998 in Iowa.

The UE was terminated at 1:42 pm on August 29, 2011. Per the request of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, FEMA Region VII, the states of Iowa and Nebraska and OPPD conducted a Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) in September 2011.

In a letter dated November 9, 2011, I provided a summary of these activities, and my recommendation to provide a "Statement of Reasonable Assurance" to the NRC.

As time progressed on On-Site issues have delayed the startup of FCNS, the NRC asked for a conference call in which we discussed the ongoing status of reasonable assurance. It was agreed that a concurrence from FEMA that Reasonable Assurance continues to exist would be sufficient for the startup process.

On October 29, 2013, FEMA HQ received a request from the NRC for a determination of continued reasonable assurance of offsite emergency plans and preparedness in support of the restart of Fort Calhoun Station projected for early December 2013.

Assessment:

FEMA Region VII has made inquiry to both the States of Nebraska and Iowa regarding any obstacles to their operations, and has received verification that no obstacles exist.

Conclusion:

Based upon the results of the DIR in September 2011 and the verification of capabilities since that time, my staff has determined that nothing has altered the conditions under which FEMA provided its Statement of Reasonable Assurance, so I recommend providing the NRC with a Determination of Continued Reasonable Assurance.