

From: DiPaolo, Eugene  
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 1:52 PM  
To: aceactivists@comcast.net  
Cc: Bower, Fred  
Subject: RE: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION

Mrs. Cuthbert,

Regarding the questions you emailed me on March 1, 2014 concerning the Limerick emergency sirens, please see the below responses.

1. What is the alternate response plan to which you refer, to notify residents when a siren is inoperable?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has the overall authority for approving the design, testing and operation of the offsite alert notification system. FEMA's approved method for notifying the public should a siren be inoperable is route alerting that is implemented by the affected county's emergency management agency. Route alerting consists of law enforcement or fire departments alerting the public by driving around alerting the public in those areas. For specifics related to FEMA's approval of Exelon's alert notification system or route alerting process you may contact:

By phone  
Mr. Dan Stoneking,  
Public Affairs Officer, FEMA RIII  
(215) 931-5614

By letter  
MaryAnn Tierney  
Regional Administrator, FEMA RIII  
615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

2. Many residents want to know WHY monthly siren testing is no longer happening.

As previously stated, FEMA has the overall authority for approving the design, testing and operation of the offsite alert notification system. We discussed this question with Exelon and according to them; the Limerick testing schedule was approved by FEMA. The testing schedule consists of: (1) Full Volume siren testing that is performed on the first Monday of June and December each year; and, (2) A short growl test at reduced volume is performed the first Monday of all other months of the year. Additionally, Exelon performs a poll or silent test every day to ensure that the sirens' electronics are properly operating and communicating. Using the above FEMA contact information, FEMA should be able to provide you with additional information if needed.

3. Was there a public notification and explanation of why monthly siren testing was stopped, and an opportunity for the public to comment? If so, where was the notice and explanation posted and on what date?

To the best of our knowledge, FEMA does not offer public comment periods on the approval of changes to the design, testing and operation of the offsite alert notification system. FEMA should be able to provide additional information with respect to that question. However, Exelon informed the NRC that postcards were sent out to notify the residents within the 10 mile emergency planning zone of the change in testing. A copy of this postcard is included below for your information. Please note that the postcard provided county contact information for siren concerns by any resident. In addition, Exelon issued a press release on June 3, 2012, that discussed the changes in monthly testing. Some of the information contained in the press release appeared in the Pottstown Mercury on July 3, 2012. This article can be found at

<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/MP/20120703/NEWS01/120709869> . Exelon also issued press releases prior to the June 2013 and December 2013 full siren tests (also attached). Copies of those press releases can be obtained from Exelon's Communications Manager, Dana Melia at 610-718-3025 or Dana.Melia@exeloncorp.com<mailto:Dana.Melia@exeloncorp.com>.

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4. When and how are sirens to be tested now?

As described in our above response to question 2 and the attached postcard, the sirens continue to be tested on the first Monday of each month using a method approved by FEMA.

I hope that the information provided will fully answer your questions.

Sincerely,  
Gene DiPaolo  
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector  
Limerick Generating Station  
Office: 610-327-1345  
Cell: 484-459-9521

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From: aceactivists@comcast.net [mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net]  
Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2014 11:37 AM  
To: DiPaolo, Eugene  
Subject: Re: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION

Gene,  
Thank you. Your information was helpful.

We do have questions.

1. What is the alternate response plan to which you refer, to notify residents when a siren is inoperable?
2. Many residents want to know WHY monthly siren testing is no longer happening.
3. Was there a public notification and explanation of why monthly siren testing was stopped, and an opportunity for the public to comment? If so, where was the notice and explanation posted and on what date?
4. When and how are sirens to be tested now?

Thank you in advance for your help with these concerns.  
Donna Cuthbert

From: "Eugene DiPaolo" <Eugene.DiPaolo@nrc.gov<mailto:Eugene.DiPaolo@nrc.gov>>  
To: aceactivists@comcast.net<mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net>  
Cc: "Fred Bower" <Fred.Bower@nrc.gov<mailto:Fred.Bower@nrc.gov>>  
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:52:49 PM  
Subject: RE: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION

Mrs. Cuthbert,

I wanted to follow up with regard to the cause of the Limerick emergency preparedness siren which unexpectedly alarmed continuously on Friday, January 3. The siren controls were sent back to the manufacturer for failure analysis. The manufacturer and Exelon concluded that the unexpected actuation of the siren was caused by a power surge from the electrical grid (the siren's normal power supply) that resulted in damage to the siren's controller. The power surge and controller damage caused the siren to shift its power source to its backup battery and to continuously alarm. Siren operation was terminated when internal fuses appropriately open circuited due to the continuous operation. For this one siren, Exelon replaced all siren controls, remote communications controls, and the siren head and returned the siren to service on January 8.

In accordance with Limerick emergency response plan, alternate means existed to notify local residents in the vicinity of this one siren of an emergency if one had occurred while the siren was inoperable. The siren has been fully returned to a standby status and is ready for operation, if needed.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Gene DiPaolo  
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector  
Limerick Generating Station  
Office: 610-327-1345  
Cell: 484-459-9521

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From: aceactivists@comcast.net<mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net> [mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 5:55 PM  
To: DiPaolo, Eugene  
Subject: Re: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION

Gene,  
Thank you for the response. Please inform us of the determination when the investigation is completed.  
Donna Cuthbert

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From: "Eugene DiPaolo" <Eugene.DiPaolo@nrc.gov<mailto:Eugene.DiPaolo@nrc.gov>>  
To: aceactivists@comcast.net<mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net>  
Cc: "Fred Bower" <Fred.Bower@nrc.gov<mailto:Fred.Bower@nrc.gov>>  
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 4:58:06 PM  
Subject: RE: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION Mrs. Cuthbert,

Thank you for your questions concerning a Limerick emergency preparedness siren that was alarming on Friday, January 3, at approximately 11:00 p.m. During my review of the issue, I discovered that operators were aware that a siren in South Coventry had sounded and that no actual emergency existed at the time. The Exelon personnel who investigated the siren determined that the siren was malfunctioning because no signal had been sent to actuate the siren. Limerick personnel contacted appropriate state and local authorities due to the spurious actuation of the siren. As a result of the condition and offsite notifications, Exelon made a Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 50.72 report. As a part of the notification process, I was contacted about the incident that evening. A copy of the 10CFR 50.72 (Event Number 49691) report can be viewed through the following link: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

The vendor who maintains the siren system is currently in the process of troubleshooting and repairing the siren. At this point in the investigation, the problem was caused by an equipment failure within the siren. The other 164 Limerick emergency preparedness sirens remain functional. Additional investigation to determine the exact cause of the failure will be performed.

Gene DiPaolo  
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector  
Limerick Generating Station  
Office: 610-327-1345  
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From: aceactivists@comcast.net<mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net> [mailto:aceactivists@comcast.net]  
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2014 11:38 PM  
To: DiPaolo, Eugene  
Subject: URGENT - LIMERICK ALARM QUESTION

Gene,

We were just contacted by North Coventry residents who are very worried.

The Limerick alarm went off just a short time ago, a little after 11:00 P.M.  
It was ringing for a long period of time, in fact until a few minutes ago.

Can you PLEASE look into it and let us know why that alarm went off?

Thank you,  
Donna Cuthbert