



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-2713

May 21, 2015

The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr
Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 308
Boston MA 02133-1053

Dear Senator Tarr:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated April 13, 2015. Specifically, on behalf of Mr. Stephen B. Comley, Sr., a constituent from Rowley, MA, you requested a public hearing regarding the effectiveness of the evacuation plan used for evacuating the public within the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) surrounding the Seabrook Nuclear Station.

In the area of emergency preparedness and response, the NRC works in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for ensuring the onsite and offsite emergency plans are adequate. The regulation of onsite emergency response falls within the NRC's purview, while the offsite oversight responsibility rests with FEMA. Per the memorandum of understanding contained in Appendix A to Title 44, Part 353 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (44 CFR 353), the NRC relies on FEMA to provide a reasonable assurance finding on the adequacy of offsite emergency response programs, including the means for the timely evacuation of the public, for protecting the public health and safety.

As you are aware, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has the overall authority for making protective action decisions (sheltering, evacuation, etc.) for ensuring the safety of their public during a radiological event. The state's radiological emergency plan for implementing those decisions was developed by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and subsequently approved by FEMA. Additionally, FEMA evaluates the implementation of the State's radiological emergency plan during emergency exercises conducted on a biennial basis to ensure continued reasonable assurance.

To date, the NRC has not received any concerns from FEMA regarding the State's capability for implementing their plan, including their capability for evacuating the general public in a timely and safe manner.

We spoke with Mr. John Giarrusso, our contact in MEMA, and he informed us that on June 1, 2015, MEMA will be making a presentation in a public forum before the Rowley, MA, Board of Selectmen on the Commonwealth's Emergency Plan. If you would like further information on this outreach initiative, you may contact Mr. Giarrusso at (508) 820-2040. We also forwarded your letter to FEMA Region I regarding your interest in this issue.

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Finally, you mentioned that Mr. Comley has brought you “allegations and concerns” relative to the viability or effectiveness of the approved evacuation plan. If Mr. Comley has specific safety issues directly related to the Seabrook Power Station, he may contact the NRC’s Toll-Free Safety Hotline at **(800) 695-7403**.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact either myself at (610) 337-5299 or Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel H. Dorman
Regional Administrator

cc:
Massachusetts State Representative Bradford Hill
K. Schwartz, Director, MEMA
J. Giarrusso, MA State Liaison Officer, MEMA
S. Colman, Regional Assistance Coordinator, FEMA, RI

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Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact either myself at (610) 337-5299 or Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel H. Dorman
Regional Administrator

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Massachusetts State Representative Bradford Hill
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J. Giarrusso, MA State Liaison Officer, MA
S. Colman, Regional Assistance Coordinator, FEMA, RI

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LTR-15-0224-1
RegionI-2015-0162

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\ORA\McNamara\Congr-State Resp Ltrs\Letters to MA Senator Tarr and Rep Hill(2).docx

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: [ML15141A200](#)

ADAMS Package Accession No.: ML15114A373

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DATE	5/ 19 /15	5/ 05 /15	5/ 19 /15	5/21 /15	

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*Concurrence via email