



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

December 21, 2015

Mr. Andrew Velasquez, III, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

During the week of November 16, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission hosted counterparts from the Government of Japan to observe and have technical discussions on the Clinton Hostile Action Based (HAB) Exercise. The exchange was held under the scope of the United States-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation (BLC). The BLC was created in 2012 by President Obama and then Prime Minister Noda to expand bilateral cooperation on civil nuclear energy, including nuclear regulation, decontamination of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, nuclear research and development, non-proliferation, security, and emergency response. The discussions, exercise observation, and site tours provided a unique opportunity to address a wide number of related nuclear safety and security topics and share best practices between the two countries.

Sean O'Leary, FEMA Region-V RAC Chair, was instrumental in achieving such a successful exchange. Mr. O'Leary's outstanding support including accompanying the counterparts on the tour of the Illinois State Emergency Operations Center and during the exercise in DeWitt County to answer questions and explain actions; traveling between Springfield and Chicago, Illinois to deliver the presentation to the group on the National Response Framework and Radiological Emergency Preparedness programs at your office; his excellent communication skills in answering counterpart questions; and generous hospitality, exceeded our expectations.

A. Velasquez

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In closing, we appreciate the contribution that Mr. O'Leary made to our effort in support of the BLC. If your future activities would benefit from our involvement, please contact Herral Logaras, Region III Government Liaison Specialist with your request at (630) 829-9659.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nader Mamish
Director, Office of International Programs

/RA/

Cynthia Pederson
Regional Administrator

cc: M. Chesney, USDHS FEMA
S. O'Leary, USDHS FEMA

A. Velasquez, III

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Regional Administrator

cc: M. Chesney, USDHS FEMA
S. O'Leary, USDHS FEMA

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