



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD., Suite 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

November 8, 2017

The Honorable Roberta Pevear
7 River Woods Drive, Apt. D-125
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Ms. Pevear:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated October 2, 2017. Specifically, you stated that you supported the request by "We the People" for a public hearing for first responders regarding the effectiveness of the evacuation plan for the public within the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone surrounding the Seabrook Nuclear Station. The NRC recently responded to the Chairman of the Town of Georgetown, Massachusetts, on emergency planning issues in an October 10, 2017, letter. We believe that response addresses your concerns and we have enclosed a copy for your review.

If you would like to discuss your concerns regarding off-site emergency planning further, the State of New Hampshire has the overall authority for taking protective actions to assure the safety of the public, in New Hampshire, during a radiological emergency. FEMA is the federal agency charged with assuring off-site emergency preparedness at nuclear power plants, among other activities. New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management can be reached at (603) 271-2231. FEMA Region I can be reached at (617) 832-4731.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Raymond K. Lorson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure

cc: P. Plummer, New Hampshire State Liaison Officer
S. Colman, Regional Assistance Committee
Chairperson, FEMA, RI

LETTER TO: ROBERTA PEVEAR DATED NOVEMBER 8. 2017

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**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD., Suite 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

October 10, 2017

Joseph Bonavita, Chairman
Town of Georgetown Massachusetts
1 Library Street
Georgetown, MA 01833

Dear Chairman Bonavita:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated August 21, 2017. Specifically, you concurred with a 2015 letter from State Senator Tarr and requested a public hearing regarding the effectiveness of the evacuation plan for the public within the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) surrounding the Seabrook Nuclear Station. I previously responded to Senator Tarr in a letter dated May 21, 2015. That response can be accessed from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML15141A200¹. Since my response to Senator Tarr, Federal and State agencies responsible for offsite emergency preparedness around Seabrook have conducted several public outreach activities in the area.

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 between NRC and FEMA, dated December 7, 2015, (accessed from ADAMS under Accession Number ML15344A371) 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.

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. The most recent exercise for Seabrook was conducted on April 5, 2016. FEMA held a public meeting to discuss the results of the exercise on April 8, 2016. The results of FEMA's exercise evaluation can be found in the Seabrook Station After Action Report issued July 8, 2016, and can be accessed from ADAMS under Accession Number ML16363A414. The next FEMA evaluated exercise will take place in April 2018.

¹ Designation refers to an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number. Documents referenced in this letter are publicly-available using the accession number in ADAMS at <https://adams.nrc.gov/wba/>. For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov.

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.

In part due to the concerns raised in the letter received from State Senator Tarr, MEMA made a presentation in a public forum before the Rowley, MA, Board of Selectmen on June 1, 2015 regarding the Commonwealth's Emergency Plan. Minutes from this meeting are available on the Town of Rowley website: http://www.townofrowley.net/pdf/150601_BOS_Minutes.pdf

In addition to the meetings described in this letter, the NRC holds Annual Assessment Meetings to discuss the results of Seabrook Station performance. These meetings are held in the 10 mile EPZ and are typically held in late spring or early summer. The most recent meeting was held on June 7, 2017. A summary of this meeting can be accessed from ADAMS under Accession Number ML17172A132. While the purpose of the Annual Assessment Meeting is focused on current plant performance, the NRC takes questions from the public on a variety of topics including emergency preparedness. As noted above, evaluation of the adequacy of offsite emergency plans is FEMA's responsibility, so the NRC's response to these questions is limited to the adequacy of the licensee's onsite emergency preparedness program.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. We will continue to provide regular opportunities to address any public concerns regarding Seabrook, including offsite emergency preparedness. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact either myself at (610) 337-5299 or Mr. Doug Tiff, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-6918.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Original Signed by:

Daniel H. Dorman
Regional Administrator

cc:

K. Schwartz, Director, MEMA

J. Giarrusso, MA State Liaison Officer, MEMA

S. Colman, Regional Assistance Committee Chairperson, FEMA, RI

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LETTER TO TOWN OF GEORGETOWN DATED October 10, 2017

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*concurrence via email

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