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MAY 24 1999

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
RESPONSE TO RAI REGARDING EXEMPTION
FROM BIENNIAL EXERCISE SCHEDULE
PLA-5067**

Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388

Reference: PLA-5022, R.G. Byram to USNRC, "Request to Change the Date of the SSES Federally Observed Emergency Exercise," dated January 29, 1999.

Via the referenced letter, PP&L, Inc. (PP&L) requested an exemption from the requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c regarding conduct of a full participation biennial exercise. As indicated in that proposal, PP&L was requested to evaluate the acceptability of such a change as a result of schedule and resource issues within FEMA Region III and the NRC.

PP&L's referenced request provided justification for rescheduling the required exercise from the week of November 15, 1999 to the week of October 31, 2000. The staff responded with a request for additional information; that request and PP&L's responses are provided below.

NRC Requested Information:

"Describe, in detail, the compensating measures that you are planning to maintain your level of emergency preparedness over the third year."

Response:

On-going activities planned to maintain the level of emergency preparedness at SSES include the following:

1. Annual training will be provided for on-site emergency response organization personnel, including the use of emergency response facility-specific drills.

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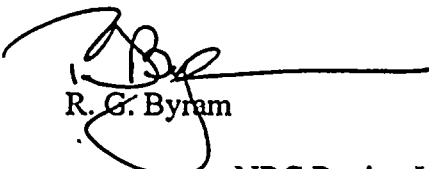
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2. In addition to the training and drills cited above, two health physics drills will be conducted during the year. These drills include the coordinated participation of all company emergency response facilities in response to a simulated series of events which is similar to the scenarios used in NRC graded exercises. These drills also include notification of state and local emergency response agencies.
3. Offsite Program: The emergency response training and plan preparation remain the same whether there is a FEMA evaluated exercise or not. All offsite organizations are offered training annually. In addition, a practice drill is planned for October 21, 1999 involving all risk county and municipal volunteers. Company employees trained in emergency response will travel to each agency location and critique performance.
4. Routine testing of emergency sirens and notification systems will continue to be performed.

We request your approval of our request to reschedule our graded exercise to October 2000. Your immediate attention to this matter is requested to avoid unnecessary use of planning resources. Changing of the drill date will not reduce the level of emergency preparedness at Susquehanna SES.

Should you have questions regarding this submittal, please contact Ms. C. A. Smith at (570) 542-3233.

Sincerely,



R. G. Byram

copy: NRC Region I
Mr. S. L. Hansell, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. V. Nerses, NRC Sr. Project Manager



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additional information indicating the compensatory measures that they are planning to take to maintain their level of emergency preparedness over the third year. The proposed actions, as discussed in the conference and provided in writing, are attached. They have been reviewed by the staff and have been found to be adequate.

The Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section has completed its review of this request and recommends that the schedule exemption be granted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v).

Docket Nos. 50-387/388

- Attachments: 1. Letter from FEMA
2. Letter for PP&L

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