



FEMA

September 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Michael Casey, Director
Technological Hazards Division
National Preparedness Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security- FEMA

THROUGH: Vanessa Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section
Technological Hazards Division
National Preparedness Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security- FEMA

FROM: Randall Hecht, Chief/RAC Chair
Technological Hazards Branch
National Preparedness Division
FEMA Region IV
U.S. Department of Homeland Security- FEMA

JT Ackermann

SUBJECT: Preliminary Capabilities Assessment – St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant

Background:

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, Hurricane Dorian's path threatened the State of Florida and the coastal counties surrounding the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. Hurricane Dorian brought rain and strong winds, and caused localized flooding. Although Hurricane Dorian did not make landfall in Florida, the storm did require major protective actions and response efforts by federal, state, and local authorities. The risk and host counties of St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Indian River, and Brevard implemented protective actions that included: activation of emergency response centers; mandatory evacuation for coastal zones; sheltering and mass care activities; and emergency public information and warnings. During the storm, Florida Power and Light maintained both units operating at 100% and did not shut down.

FEMA Region IV, in coordination with NRC Region II and Florida Power and Light, held discussions with representatives from the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Bureau of Radiation Control, St. Lucie County, Martin County, Palm Beach County, Indian River County, Brevard County, and the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. These discussions were held on September 4th and 5th, to assess the offsite capabilities potentially affected by Hurricane Dorian.

On Thursday, September 5, 2019, based on the Preliminary Capabilities Assessment performed and our review of available information gathered in discussions with state and local government agencies, FEMA Region IV has concluded that offsite radiological emergency preparedness remains adequate to provide a reasonable assurance determination. Appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. At this time, FEMA Region IV is not recommending actions to conduct a Disaster Initiated Review of offsite emergency preparedness within the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant 10-mile emergency planning zone. The Regional Administrator and the Federal Preparedness Coordinator are aware of this decision.

FEMA Region IV assessed the offsite capabilities of the response organizations as it relates to the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. The assessment is as follows:

Assessment:

1. Emergency Response Facilities

The state emergency operations center in Tallahassee was activated at level 1 (full activation), as well as St. Lucie County and Martin County Emergency Operations Center. At the time of the preliminary capabilities assessment, the state emergency operations center was activated at level 1 and the counties at level 2 (partial activation). The emergency operation centers were not compromised and were capable of coordinating emergency response operations in support of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

2. Communications

Primary and secondary communication systems were operable. No irregularities or failures were noted in the communication networks among Florida Power and Light, the state, and risk and host counties.

3. Emergency Response Organizations

State and county emergency response organizations were capable of performing the activities required of them in accordance with approved plans and procedures.

4. Public Alert and Notification

The prompt alert and notification system for the 10-mile emergency planning zone was operable. The risk counties had the resources to conduct backup route alerting if needed. The state's joint information system had the capability to make emergency public information and instructions relative to the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant in a timely manner.

5. Access and Functional Needs and Transportation Resources

The state and risk counties maintained enough transportation assets to fulfill requirements. Movement of transportation dependent populations to include disabled, access/functional needs, and schools were unencumbered.

6. Evacuation Routes

The state and risk counties maintained satisfactory law enforcement assets to perform the duties required of them. Primary evacuation routes inside of the 10-mile emergency planning zone were not impacted.

7. Accident Assessment

The Florida Bureau of Radiological Control had the resources available to provide independent radiological dose assessment and recommendations to decision makers on protective actions for the health and safety of the public. The Bureau could have deployed the state's radiological field monitoring teams to monitor and assess a radiological plume. Additionally, the risk counties had the ability to monitor and decontaminate the public and emergency workers.

8. Support Services

The risk and host counties had resources to operate reception and congregate care centers in accordance with their plans and procedures. The supporting county emergency medical services were not degraded and were capable of responding, treating, and transporting a radiologically contaminated injured individual.

9. Population Shifts

There were no population shifts due to Hurricane Dorian.

10. Supporting Documentation

All supporting documentation gathered will be retained on file at FEMA Region IV.

Conclusion:

In part, and along with this capability assessment, all community lifelines remain stable. The State of Florida and affected counties surrounding the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant have the ability to implement their radiological emergency plans and procedures as written. A formal Disaster Initiated Review is not recommended.