



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUN 2 1980

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes:

Your letter of April 24, 1980 brought to my attention your concern regarding the arrangements which were made for our recent meeting at the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant.

Except for meetings dealing with security measures or other proprietary information, meetings between the NRC staff and our licensees are open to the parties to the proceeding and the public. A copy of the letter announcing the meeting is sent to all the parties concerned and also to the local public document room which is normally located in a sizeable community near the plant site. However, because of the subject matter of emergency planning and its interest to the public, the NRC staff has made an additional and distinct effort to notify the public, as well as affected government officials, regarding our current program involving visits to each of the nation's operating nuclear power plants for the purpose of promptly upgrading emergency preparedness.

With respect to the Peach Bottom meeting, our public announcement was issued on March 31, 1980 - well in advance of the meeting date. I have enclosed a copy of the public announcement and the mailing list used for the Peach Bottom meeting. In addition, our emergency planning Team Leader responsible for reviewing the plans, submitted by the licensed utility, personally extended an invitation to the local officials responsible for implementing emergency actions in the environs of the Peach Bottom facility. In the case of Harford and Cecil counties, the Civil Defense personnel invited were Robert Shackelford and Skip Moham respectively. We consider that our effort to notify the public was sufficient and I might add that the attendance at the public meeting was in excess of 100 citizens from both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

As you may be aware, President Carter, on December 7, 1979, directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take the lead in off-site emergency planning and to review and assess State and local emergency plans for adequacy. The FEMA regional office is working actively with the State and its political subdivisions to produce improved emergency preparedness plans and capabilities as soon as possible. At the point in time when the FEMA Regional Director is satisfied that the State and local plans are ready for review against the criteria by the FEMA National Headquarters, there will be a public meeting held in the vicinity of the power plant. This meeting will include a general description of the concepts and proposed emergency actions contained in the plans and public comment and recommendations will be solicited. These comments and recommendations will be considered during the final review of the plans by FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D. C. A copy of a letter to me from Mr. Frank Camm, FEMA, stating this commitment is enclosed.

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The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes

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I trust this responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks, Acting Executive
Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Peach Bottom Press Release
2. Mailing List
3. Letter from F. Cunn, FEMA,
to W. Dircks, NRC