

Central Files

JUL 7 1980

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Ms. Z. S. Fleisher
West Branch Conservation Association
443 Buena Vista Road
New City, N.Y. 10956

Dear Ms. Fleisher:

Your letter of February 6, 1980 brought to my attention your concern regarding the status and responsibilities for emergency preparedness in the environs of the Indian Point Nuclear Station.

In response to the recommendations of the Kemeny Commission on the accident at Three Mile Island, President Carter, on December 7, 1979, directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take the lead responsibility for all off-site emergency planning and response. The effect of that decision is that FEMA rather than NRC will review and assess State and local emergency response plans and make findings as to the adequacy of those plans as well as the State and local capability to implement such plans. These findings will be provided to the NRC and will be used by our staff in the licensing process for making a determination on the overall state of emergency preparedness for the Indian Point Nuclear Station.

Currently 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 NRC from Mr. Frank Cann, FEMA, stating this commitment is enclosed.

I am also enclosing a letter which we recently received from the Consolidated Edison Company and the Power Authority of the State of New York which details the licensees' efforts to improve the status of emergency preparedness at and around the Indian Point site. I believe you will find this information helpful with respect to the nature and scope of the improvements currently in progress.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter and trust that this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Grimes, Director
Emergency Preparedness Program Office

Enclosures:

1. Letter from F. Cama, FEMA
to W. Dircks, NRC
2. Letter from P. Early, PASNY, and
W. Cahill, Con. Ed., to H. Denton, NRC

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