Public Service Company of Colorado

16805 WCR 19 1/2, Platteville, Colorado 80651

January 7, 1983
Fort St. Vrain
Unit #1
P-83011

50-267

Mr. Glenn L. Madsen, Chief
Reactor Project Branch 1
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Dr., Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76012

SUBJECT: Fort St. Vrain Early Warning System (EWS)

REFERENCE: NRC Letter, Madson to Lee dated December 23, 1982 (G-83004)

Dear Mr. Madsen:

In answer to your request for a summary of EWS issues discussed at a meeting between the licensee, Colorado Department of Disaster Emergency Services (DODES), Colorado Department of Health (CDH), FEMA, and the National Weather Service (NWS), the following is hereby provided. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of matters concerning emergency preparedness. The Early Warning Alert System (EWS) was one of the topics discussed and an exerpt from my meeting notes concerning the topics are hereby submitted as Attachment 1.

The minutes provided contain the entire discussion of the EWS system at the meeting. Neither DODES or NWS have the capability to monitor output from the Mead or Point of Rocks transmission towers which are the two principal stations used for transmitting messages concerning Fort St. Vrain. PSC has, therefore, taken responsibility for monitoring the Wednesday tone alert signal tests and will notify the State (DODES) when the test is not successful. PSC has developed and implemented a surveillance test, SR-TE-6-W, attached hereto as Attachment 2, to ensure monitoring of the weekly tone alert tests. DODES has developed and implemented a procedure to notify PSC and Weld County of any reported or planned system outages. The agreement between the State and NWS to report any system outages or planned outages to DODES has not been developed as of this date. NWS and DODES are currently meeting the intent by verbal agreement.

A005

PSC can certainly live with the verbal agreement for the present as we are monitoring the system via our weekly surveillance anyway and can notify DODES and Weld County ourselves if necessary. If you require further information regarding the EWS, please give me a call at (303) 785-2224.

Very truly yours,

Don W. Warembourg

Don W. Warembourg
Manager, Nuclear Production
Fort St. Vrain Nuclear
Generating Station

DWW/skr

DWW/LMM/skr

Attachments

cc: O. R. Lee
J. P. Byrne
W. S. Martin
Jim Montgomery
C. H. Fuller
F. J. Borst
J. M. Sills

Early Warning Systems

PSC explained the problems that had been experienced with reference to the tone alert not working properly on occasions and the system being out of service without the PSC's knowledge. PSC stated that the following actions were required:

1. A means must be developed for monitoring the tone alert test on Wednesdays with a reporting mechanism when the test is not successful.

2. A reporting procedure is needed wherein if the system is going to be out of service for maintenance, or NWS is aware of system problems that the State and PSC are notified.

3. The State (DODES) must develop a procedure to notify Weld County if and when it is determiend that the system is or is going to be out of service or is otherwise malfunctioning so they can be alerted as to the need for door-to-door notification in the event of a Fort St. Vrain incident requiring such notification.

In the discussion that followed it was agreed that:

1. PSC will develop a procedure for monitoring the tone alert every Wednesday. Any malfunction will be reported to the State on 279-8855.

2. The State and NWS will either develop a procedure or amend their agreement to ensure that NWS will report any system outages or planned systems outages to DODES.

3. The State (DODES) will develop a procedure to notify as necessary, PSC, NWS, or Weld County of any reported outages or planned outages.

   The State's Division of Communications is prepared to support any maintenance or repairs needed. With these provisions the largest period of time that the system could be malfunctioning without our knowledge is the one week between tests. Given that other EWS systems are tested only once every two (2) weeks the weekly test is a very conservative approach.

   NWS did agree to test the system every Wednesday between the approximate hours of 11:00 am. and 12:00. The test would not be conducted only if there were an actual tone alert notification between 11:00 am. and 12:00 on Wednesday. The actual activation of this event would meet all requirements of the test.

Procedures will be developed in a timely fashion. In the interim, all agencies should cperate to meet the intent of the above agreement.

Recap of EWS Problems

FEMA was satisfied with the actions that had been taken by PSC in correcting those problems identified during FOSAVEX 82.

Attachment 2

Surveillance Procedure SR-TE-6-W

TITLE: EMERGENCY ALERT SIGNAL VERIFICATION

DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES

ISSUANCE AUTHORIZED BY			
PORC REVIEW	PORC 493 DEC 1 - 1982		EFFECTIVE DATE 12-2-82

Do not start test before_____ Week # _____

and must be completed by_____ Sch. Clerk

This procedure cannot be run in its entirety for the following reasons:

____ 1. This system is not operating.

____ 2. This system is not required to be operating and has a frequency of one month or less (reference Technical Specification, paragraph 2.18).

____ 3. Reactor is in "scrammed" condition.

____ 4. Loop I is in "Loop Shutdown" condition.

____ 5. Loop II is in "Loop Shutdown" condition.

____ 6. 1A Helium circulator is in "tripped condition".

____ 7. 1B Helium circulator is in "tripped condition".

____ 8. 1C Helium circulator is in "tripped condition".

____ 9. 1D Helium circulator is in "tripped condition".

____ 10. Other_____

_____

_____

____ 11. Reschedule test for_____

_____
Department Supervisor

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To verify that the National Weather Service's (NWS) transmitting tower, which serves the Fort St. Vrain vicinity, is operable and capable of transmitting an emergency alert signal.

1.2 To notify the NWS if the above verification is not made in order that continuity of the emergency alert signal system can be verified.

NOTE: The alert signal is the same for all emergencies, including weather conditions, Fort St. Vrain emergencies, tests, and others. Receiving any emergency alert signal satisfies the requirements of this surveillance.

2.0 PRECAUTIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

The test is to be conducted utilizing a "weatheralert" type of radio, which is the same as or similar to those being utilized for the Fort St. Vrain radiological emergency alert system.

The radio(s) being used for this surveillance shall be placed in an operable condition which will allow the unit to receive an emergency alert signal from the NWS. A general outline of radio preparation is given in Section 5.0

3.0 PREREQUISITES

3.1 Test Equipment

Name	Identification No.	Last Calibration Date
"Weatheralert" radio(s)		

3.2 References _____

_____

4.0 AUTHORIZATIONS

4.1 Departmental Approval

_____ _____
Dept. Supervisor Date

4.2 Mech/Elec Clearance Issued, if required: Number Not Required

4.3 Radiation Work Permit Issued, if required: Number Not Required

4.4 Permission to initiate test

_____ _____
Shift Supervisor Date

5.0 PROCEDURE

5.1 PRELIMINARY CHECKS

Ensure the "weatheralert" radio is set for receiving the emergency alert signal as follows:

NOTE: Radios may vary in design and operating instructions, therefore, refer to the specific operating instructions for each unit.

5.1.1 Turn on unit.

_____

5.1.2 Verify unit has power (either AC or battery) by taking the selector switch to WEATHER. You should hear a portion of the 24-hour weather report by the NWS.

_____

a) If nothing happens, check the unit's squelch and volume controls, or replace with another unit and check that unit.

_____

5.1.3 Place unit in an emergency receiving mode by depressing the ALERT button. Verify the RED light remains constantly ON. (If the RED light is blinking, it means the unit is in a tripped condition.)

_____

_____ _____
Test Conductor Signature Date

5.1.4 Test unit by depressing the TEST button on the underside of the unit.

_____

a) The unit should "squeal", then switch automatically to the weather report.

_____

5.1.5 Reset the unit again by depressing the WEATHER button, then the ALERT button. Verify by checking the RED light is constantly ON.

_____

_____ _____
Test Conductor Signature Date

5.2 TEST PROCEDURE - EMERGENCY ALERT SIGNAL VERIFICATION

The National Weather Service demonstrates the emergency alert system once per week on Wednesdays between the hours of 1100 and 1200. This surveillance should be completed during this demonstration if possible. Any emergency alert signal received during the surveillance period satisfies successful completion of the test. (Emergency alert signals are transmitted for various reasons; weather alerts, Fort St. Vrain emergencies, tests, etc..)

5.2.1 Verification of receiving an emergency alert signal:

Date Received: _____

Approx. Time Received: _____

Reason: _____
(Weather, Ft.St.Vrain, test, etc.)

_____

_____ _____
Test Conductor Signature Date

5.2.2 Emergency alert signal NOT received:

a) Check with other personnel having access to units for verification.

_____

b) Contact the Technical/Administative Services Manager and inform of the failure to verify the emergency alert signal, who should then contact the NWS to check the system's operability.

_____

_____ _____
Test Conductor Signature Date

6.0 TEST CONDUCTOR'S REPORT

6.1 Were any procedure changes or deviations made to the test and DCCF/PDR initiated? (Attach copies if applicable)
Yes____ No____

6.2 Were all steps successfully completed as stated in test.
Yes____ No____

6.3 If the answer to 6.2 is NO, notify Department Supervisor and list conditions and/or PTR number(s):

_____

6.4 Test completed except for items noted in 6.3

_____ _____
Test Conductor Date

6.5 Test sheets and data sheets reviewed and approved except for items noted in 6.3

_____ _____
Department Representative Date

7.0 DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR'S/TEST CONDUCTOR'S REVIEW
(If the answer to 6.2 is YES, sections 7.0 and 8.0 are not applicable go to Section 9.0)

7.1 Does the failure described in 6.3 require any action or impose any limit to operation per the applicable LCO(s)?
Yes____ No____ N/A____

7.2 Applicable LCO(s)_____

Action or Limit_____

7.3 Is the reason test is not being completed at this time due to plant or equipment status?
Yes____ No____ N/A____

7.4 If the answer to 7.3 is YES, list condition(s) and/or PTR number(s):

_____

7.5 Is retest necessary for items listed in 6.3 and/or 7.4?
Yes____ No____ N/A____

7.6 If the answer to 7.5 is YES; list specific section(s) or step(s) to be retested.

_____

_____ _____
Dept. Supervisor/Test Conductor Date

8.0 RETEST SECTION
(If the answer to 7.5 is NO go to Section 9.0)

8.1 Verify satisfactory retest of section(s) or step(s) listed in 7.6

_____ _____
Retest Conductor Date

8.2 Retest reviewed.

_____ _____
Department Representative Date

9.0 APPROVALS

9.1 Test results approved. Satisfactory results confirm compliance with applicable LCO(s).

_____ _____
Department Supervisor Date

9.2 Notification of satisfactory test results and test conclusion:

_____ _____
Shift Supervisor Date

9.3 Requires Station Manager evaluation:

_____ _____
Department Supervisor Date

9.4 _____ _____
Station Manager Date

10.0 DATA SHEETS RECEIVED, VERIFIED SECTION 9.0 COMPLETE, AND SURVEILLANCE TEST RECORDS UPDATED.

_____ _____
Scheduling Technician Date