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Docket Nos. 50-259/260/296  
and 50-348

Ira L. Myers, M.D.  
State Health Officer  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
State Office Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Dr. Myers:

I am writing in response to your May 24, 1982 letter requesting clarification on the exercise frequency rule. I believe the answers to your questions regarding licensee and local government participation in emergency preparedness exercises are contained in the Federal Register Notice of the Emergency Planning, Final Regulations dated August 19, 1980. The Statement of Consideration issued with the rule stated:

"On an annual basis, all commercial nuclear power facilities will be required by NRC to exercise their plans; these exercises should involve exercising the appropriate local government plans in support of these facilities. The State may choose to limit its participation in exercises at facilities other than the facility (site) chosen for the annual exercise(s) of the State plan," (emphasis added) and

"Each State and appropriate local government shall annually conduct an exercise jointly with a commercial nuclear power facility." (emphasis added)

Further information is provided in an attached memorandum to the NRC regions on this same subject.

To specifically address your situation, each commercial nuclear power plant affecting Alabama is required to exercise its emergency plan annually in conjunction with the local government to test as much of the licensee and local plans as is achievable without mandatory public participation. The State of Alabama may choose to participate in each annual exercise at the Brown's Ferry and Farley facilities or the State may participate in only one per year to test the State emergency plan. However, the State of Alabama must also exercise at least once every three years with the Sequoyah (TN) facility. In addition, each annual exercise with the Brown's Ferry and Farley facilities in which

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Ira L. Myers, M.D.

- 3 -

the State does not participate fully, the State should participate on a small scale to test the adequacy of communication links, establish that response agencies understand the emergency action levels and test at least one other component (e.g., medical or offsite monitoring) of the offsite emergency response plans. This smallscale participation will also enhance the abilities of the local governments to conduct a meaningful exercise as in many situations local governments rely on the State for protective action recommendations.

Sincerely,

**\*Original Signed By  
R. C. DeYoung\***

Richard C. DeYoung, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:  
Memo to NRC Regions on  
Emergency Plan Exercises

cc: Mr. H. G. Parris  
Tennessee Valley Authority

Mr. R. P. McDonald  
Alabama Power Company

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Ira L. Myers, M.D.

- 2 -

In addition, each year the Browns Ferry and Farley facilities do not conduct a fullscale exercise with the State, a smallscale exercise which tests the adequacy of communication links, establishes that response agencies understand the emergency action levels and tests at least one other component (e.g., medical or offsite monitoring) of the offsite emergency response plans shall be conducted with the State of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Richard C. DeYoung, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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