



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

FEB 27 1992

Mr. Frank J. Congel, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
and Emergency Preparedness
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Congel:

The purpose of this letter is to advise the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the 1991 annual operability average for the V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Plant Early Warning Siren System fell below the 90 percent operability requirement specified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Guidance Memorandum AN-1, "FEMA Action to Qualify Alert and Notification Systems Against NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 and FEMA-REP-10" and FEMA-REP-10, "Guide for the Evaluation of Alert and Notification Systems for Nuclear Power Plants." Information provided by the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company relative to the results of the V.C. Summer 1991 siren testing program indicate that the 1991 annual operability average of the siren system was 88.9 percent. These results are based on a series of silent (weekly), growl (monthly), and full-cycle (annual) tests of the siren system conducted throughout 1991.

In early 1990, the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company identified problems with the siren control system for the V.C. Summer Early Warning Siren System and determined the need for a new siren control system which included an automated feedback system. A new Motorola Siren Control System was purchased and installation of this new system on the 106 sirens which comprise the V.C. Summer Early Warning Siren System began in July 1991. Installation and testing of the new system was completed on January 23, 1992. Subsequent to the installation of the new system, weekly silent tests and a monthly growl test have been conducted. The results of these tests are as follows:

- o Weekly silent tests: 97-98 percent
- o January 1992 monthly growl test: 94 percent

The annual full-cycle test of the V.C. Summer Early Warning Siren System will be conducted on July 15, 1992, in conjunction with the South Carolina Electric and Gas

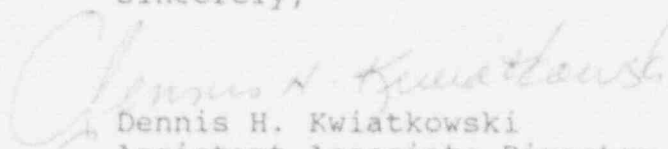
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Company's annual exercise. This exercise is not a FEMA evaluated biennial exercise.

FEMA Region IV and FEMA's Office of Technological Hazards have closely monitored the situation since the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company initially notified FEMA Region IV in September 1991 of a problem with the operability of the siren system and the possibility of the operability results falling below 90 percent by the end of the year. FEMA will continue to monitor the operability of the new system as it is tested and will notify your office of any significant changes in the status of this situation.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. Craig S. Wingo, Chief, Radiological Preparedness Division, at (202) 646-3026.

Sincerely,



Dennis H. Kwiatkowski
Assistant Associate Director
Office of Technological Hazards