



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

MAR 20 1981

Mr. Alfred B. DelBello
County Executive
Westchester County
County Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. DelBello:

We have received your letters of January 28 and 29, 1981 in which you expressed your concern that the Commission may adopt or approve the emergency response plans for the Indian Point environs by April 1, 1981 even though the four counties have not yet signed these plans.

In order to understand the Commission's role in the approval process, some background information is needed because of recent changes which affect final plan approval. On December 7, 1979, President Carter directed that the lead responsibility for upgrading State and local emergency planning would be assigned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Consequently, it is now the responsibility of FEMA to review the offsite planning and preparedness, and present its findings to the NRC. Prior to FEMA's presentation of its formal findings to us, a joint exercise will be conducted and a public meeting will be held in the vicinity of the plant to discuss the State and local planning.

As part of our current regulations, NRC is charged with the responsibility of reviewing FEMA's findings and determinations in addition to our own findings regarding the licensee's onsite plan. The result of our review is a determination of the overall state of emergency preparedness at and around each nuclear power plant. Furthermore, the new NRC rule on emergency planning requires that licensee, State, and local emergency response plans be implemented by April 1, 1981, except for the alert and notification system. Implementation should not be construed as approval of any plan. Our current intentions are to send out field teams after April 1, 1981 to followup on the implementation of the licensee's emergency plan by conducting a post implementation appraisal of each licensee's ability to successfully implement the plan. We expect that the results of this onsite appraisal program will be part of our overall finding on the state of emergency preparedness.

In summary, rest assured that the NRC will insure that onsite or offsite emergency response plans, including implementation, will provide reasonable assurance that appropriate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. In the event you consider it necessary,

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Mr. Alfred B. DelBello

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we would be willing to join with FEMA in a meeting with yourself, the utilities, the State and other affected counties in an effort to resolve any outstanding deficiencies in the emergency response plans and their implementation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
V. Stello

Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Office of Inspection & Enforcement