



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

The Honorable Nicholas Mavroules
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mavroules:

I am responding to your letter of September 9, 1988, to Chairman Zech in which you state your concern over the adequacy of the evacuation plan prepared by the utility for the Seabrook nuclear power plant. You also expressed a hope that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would "carefully scrutinize" the plan that has been filed for the Massachusetts communities surrounding the Seabrook facility.

As you know, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been assigned lead responsibility for assessing the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness for areas surrounding nuclear power plants. The utility-prepared plan, the Seabrook Plan for Massachusetts Communities (SPMC), is currently under review by FEMA and the Federal Regional Assistance Committee, which is comprised of nine Federal agencies including NRC and FEMA. A report from FEMA on the SPMC is scheduled for mid-October.

On September 2, 1988, FEMA issued its report on the graded, full participation emergency preparedness exercise that was conducted at Seabrook station on June 28-29, 1988. Seabrook station, the State of New Hampshire, 11 local towns in New Hampshire, and the State of Maine participated in the exercise. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, six Massachusetts communities, and six local towns in New Hampshire did not participate. The SPMC was exercised by the New Hampshire Yankee Offsite Response Organization (ORO) to compensate for the non-participation of Massachusetts. There were no deficiencies identified by FEMA during the exercise. The States of Maine and New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Yankee ORO have provided a schedule of corrective actions for those areas requiring corrective action identified by FEMA.

NRC appreciates your concern and thoughtful comments regarding the adequacy of the SPMC. NRC's determination of the adequacy of Seabrook's offsite plans and preparedness will include a review of FEMA's findings on the SPMC and the graded exercise. Also, public hearings similar to that conducted for the New Hampshire plans will be held to adjudicate any admitted contentions raised by parties to the litigation concerning the SPMC as well as the graded exercise. The pre-hearing activities are currently underway and hearings are expected

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Congressman Mavroules

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