



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

COL. MICHAEL D. ROBINSON, Director

PUBLIC IE-01

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

4000 COLLINS ROAD  
P.O. BOX 30636  
LANSING, MI 48909-8136 30-155

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July 29, 1997

Mr. A. Bill Beech  
Regional Administrator  
USNRC  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Ill 60532-4351

Dear Mr. Beech:

This letter is in support of the request by Consumers Energy Company (CECo) for exemption from the requirement to conduct its October 21, 1997 REP exercise at the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant.

Consumers Energy Company has notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Michigan that it will cease operations at the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant as of August 30, 1997. In its letter, CECo states that by September 15 all fuel will be removed from the reactor and, contingent upon NRC approval, by December 1, 1997 the plant's Decommissioning Emergency Plan will be effective.

The state supports the request by CECo for an exemption and has also requests an exemption from FEMA for the off-site authorities for the October 21, 1997 exercise.

As stated in the correspondence by CECo, the plant status by December 1, 1997 will be such that off-site emergency response would not be required. Given the time frame outlined above, the State feels that personnel and resources would be better utilized in preparing for the changeover in plant status then in conducting an exercise based on changing plant status. The state and affected jurisdictions plan to work with Big Rock Point staff to ensure that off-site responsibilities are met under the decommissioning plan.

Based on the plant status as of September 15, and the decommissioning status as of December 1, 1997, the state feels that the conduct of an exercise on October 21, 1997 would not be appropriate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Daniel Sibb at (517) 333-5021.

Sincerely,

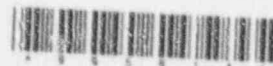
Robert C. Tarrant, Captain  
Deputy State Director of  
Emergency Management

RCT/DMS/sd

Enclosure

pc: Mr. Kenneth Powers, Plant General Manager, Big Rock Point

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