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

JUL 30 1984
file

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Zech

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR THE GRAND GULF
NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The staff's finding of adequacy regarding onsite and offsite emergency preparedness in support of a full power license for Grand Gulf were provided in Supplement No. 4 to the SER (NUREG-0831) dated May 1983. Further, on June 29, 1983, FEMA provided formal 44CFR350 approval of the State plans for Mississippi and Louisiana and the local plans related to the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (Enclosure 1).

Since the above findings were reached, a full scale exercise was conducted on April 11, 1984. Based on NRC Region II's evaluation and their participation in the Regional Assistance Committee evaluation of offsite activities, no deficiencies were identified that would adversely affect the previous finding of adequacy. However, subsequent evaluation by FEMA Region IV and FEMA Headquarters resulted in identification of two problems discussed in the enclosed letter dated July 30, 1984 (Enclosure 2), which required immediate remedial action.

The first problem was a lack of coordination in making news releases to the public between the utility and the State of Mississippi. An interim solution to this problem has been obtained by FEMA Region IV through agreements with both parties that involve utilizing the designated news media facility at the Chamberland-Hunt Academy. A long term solution is a new location for a permanent Emergency News Media Center and related revisions to the Emergency Plan.

The second problem reported by FEMA involved the length of time from the simulated radioactive release to the time that State decision makers were advised of the release by the licensee. NRC Region II has fully reported on the problem in Inspection Report 50-416/84-08 dated June 6, 1984 and satisfactory corrective actions have been initiated.

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Appropriate interim corrective actions have been promptly taken for both problems and longer term actions are underway to assure permanent solutions are obtained. The State of Mississippi plans to test the News Center coordination with the licensee during the scheduled annual exercise in February 1985. FEMA has identified this as a "remedial exercise" since the State would not otherwise be required to participate fully until 1986.

FEMA has informed us that the current status and course of action is satisfactory for continued approval under 44 CFR 350. This FEMA offsite finding combined with the NRC onsite finding continues to provide reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. Thus, the state of emergency preparedness is acceptable for full power operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station.

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Ltr. from D. McLoughlin to
W. J. Dircks dated 5/29/83
2. Ltr. from R. W. Krimm to
E. L. Jordan dated 7/30/84

cc: SECY
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