



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

JUN 29 1989

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:

Enclosed is a copy of the Final Exercise Assessment for the December 2-3, 1987, full-participation, joint exercise of the offsite radiological emergency response (REP) plans for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (NPS), the States of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and local communities in the plume pathway emergency planning zone (EPZ). The report, dated June 23, 1989, was prepared by Region I of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and transmitted to FEMA Headquarters on June 27, 1989.

Four deficiencies are identified in the exercise report. Two of the deficiencies have been assigned to the State of Vermont, one to the plume EPZ community of Brattleboro, Vermont, and one to the Media Center located at the time of the exercise at Dalem's Chalet in West Brattleboro, Vermont.

One deficiency was cited for the Vermont Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for a general inability to prepare appropriate, accurate and coordinated instructional messages for public response. The Vermont EOC was activated for a full participation REP exercise for the Yankee Rowe NPS exercise on April 26-27, 1988. Vermont requested that their performance demonstrated during the Yankee Rowe exercise be considered as sufficient remedial action to correct the deficiency identified during the Vermont Yankee exercise. FEMA considers the Vermont EOC's improved performance during the Yankee Rowe exercise as adequate remedial action to correct the previously cited Vermont Yankee deficiency.

A second deficiency was cited for the Vermont EOC for releasing protective action decisions to the public prior to consideration of all aspects of these decisions. An example of this was the release for EBS broadcast (simulated) of a draft public sheltering message with instructions different from the final sheltering decision. Later, an evacuation message was released (simulated) without consideration as to the readiness of the appropriate

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relocation centers. This deficiency was assigned to Vermont subsequent to FEMA's transmittal of the Summary Deficiency Report to the State on May 18, 1988. Since Vermont has not yet had adequate opportunity to correct it, we anticipate its correction at the upcoming exercise to be held on August 23, 1989.

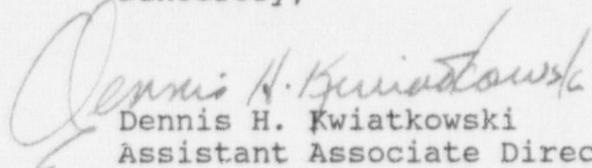
The third deficiency was cited for the Brattleboro EOC. The EOC incorrectly transcribed the evacuation message from the State EOC and did not clearly understand the message or verify the message content. Consequently, the Brattleboro EOC was not aware of the need to implement evacuation recommendations for nearly an hour. The State informed FEMA on June 27, 1988, that steps had been taken to assure that such events will not recur and stated that the system in place provides for continuous contact between the State EOC and the Brattleboro EOC. The State's corrective action will be reviewed and evaluated during the next Vermont Yankee exercise scheduled for August 23, 1989.

The final deficiency was assigned to the Media Center due to its location within the plume exposure pathway EPZ. The order to evacuate Brattleboro, in which the Media Center was located, effectively negated the Media Center's ability to provide public information at precisely the time when information was most needed. The Media center was officially moved from Dalem's Chalet in West Brattleboro to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation's Emergency Operations Facility in Brattleboro, Vermont on August 12, 1988, thereby correcting this deficiency.

Since corrective actions concerning two deficiencies remain incomplete pending a successful demonstration in the August 1989 exercise, we must withhold a finding of reasonable assurance until the results of that exercise can be evaluated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 646-2871.

Sincerely,



Dennis H. Kwiatkowski  
Assistant Associate Director  
Office of Natural and Technological  
Hazards Programs

Enclosure