



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 14, 2022

Damon C. Penn
Deputy Assistant Administrator
National Preparedness Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
400 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

SUBJECT: NORTH ANNA POWER STATION ALERT AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Mr. Penn:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated August 10, 2022, which provided the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval of Revision 3 of the North Anna Power Station (NAPS) Alert and Notification System (ANS) Evaluation Report, hereinafter referred to as the NAPS ANS Report, which was received on August 23, 2022.¹

As described in Revision 3 of the NAPS ANS Report, the primary ANS has been changed from sirens to the Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems (IPAWS) Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) for the five-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) and the IPAWS Emergency Alert System (EAS) as the primary ANS in the NAPS 10-mile EPZ. For redundancy, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has two IPAWS-compliant Common Alerting Protocol Alert Origination Tools that are hosted on separate vendor platforms, one that is designated as the primary and the other as an alternate, readily available to activate IPAWS-WEA and IPAWS-EAS. The NAPS ANS Report further identifies VDEM's Public Notification System, an emergency telephone notification system that has the capability to perform a mass alert and notification to citizens, as the back-up alerting, and notification method should IPAWS become inoperable.

Per Section III, Paragraph 2 of the "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA and the NRC Regarding Radiological Emergencies, Planning, and Preparedness," which was signed on November 19, 2015²:

"FEMA coordinates all Federal planning for offsite impact of radiological emergencies and takes the lead for assessing offsite radiological emergency response plans and preparedness, makes findings and determinations as to the adequacy and capability of

¹ NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML22263A280](#)

² ADAMS Accession No. ML15344A371

implementing offsite plans, and communicates those findings and determinations to the NRC. The NRC reviews FEMA's findings and determinations in conjunction with the NRC onsite findings for the purpose of making determinations on the overall state of emergency preparedness. These overall findings and determinations are used by the NRC to make radiological health and safety decisions in the issuance of licenses and the continued operation of licensed utilization facility to include taking enforcement actions such as notices of violations, civil penalties, orders, or shutdown of operating reactors. This delineation of responsibilities avoids duplicative efforts by the NRC in preparedness matters.”

Consistent with the roles of each agency as set forth in the aforementioned MOU, the NRC conducted a review of the FEMA findings. To aid its review, the NRC utilized the FEMA evaluation criteria and sample template for ANS changes and use of IPAWS³. The NRC review focused on the applicable requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50, Appendix E, Section IV.D.3. 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.D.3.

Additionally, the NRC evaluated the NAPS ANS Report which was attached to your letter and found that it contained sufficient information to be considered an adequate submittal for NRC to conduct its review. At this time, the NRC did not identify any licensing basis concerns.

In conclusion, the NRC accepts FEMA's findings that Revision 3 of the NAPS ANS Report meets the applicable requirements in 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.D.3, and enables the NRC to make a finding of reasonable assurance for public health and safety.

Please feel free to contact my staff, Michael McCoppin, Chief, Policy and Oversight Branch at (301) 415-6533 or at michael.mccoppin@nrc.gov, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

 Signed by Brock, Kathryn
on 10/14/22

Kathryn M. Brock, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

³ ADAMS Accession No. ML19339G862

FEMA Approval of North Anna ANS Change to IPAWS DATE October 14, 2022

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML22263A280; ML22263A454

*** via email**

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