

July 27, 2011

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 7, 2011, regarding the planned strike by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 97 at the Nine Mile Point (NMP) Nuclear Station. As you know, a strike commenced at 12:01 a.m. on July 9th.

In advance of the strike, the NRC completed an inspection of the facility's strike contingency plan, per established inspection procedures, to evaluate the plan's adequacy and to ensure that public health, safety, and security would be maintained during any strike period. This inspection verified that the licensee had properly trained operators and other personnel who would safely perform replacement functions during the strike.

On July 8th at 10:00 p.m., two hours prior to the strike commencing, the NRC resident inspectors, supplemented by regional inspectors, implemented 24-hour coverage at the site. This around-the-clock coverage will continue until it is determined that this degree of oversight is no longer warranted. The regional branch chief responsible for NMP also was on site for the initial days of the strike to manage resident and regional inspection resources, to interface with site senior management and union representatives to reinforce the importance of continued safe operation of the facility, and to observe the licensee's contingency plan implementation to ensure that NMP met its regulatory requirements.

On July 26th, the members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 97 voted to approve the new contract. We will continue to provide enhanced oversight and closely monitor the situation following the return of the workers to the site. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko