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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3415

September 14, 1998

The Honorable Gerald W. Holleman
Mayor, Town of Holly Springs
P. O. Box 8
128 South Main Street
Holly Springs, North Carolina 27540

Dear Mayor Holleman:

I am in receipt of a copy of your correspondence, dated September 1, 1998, which you sent to Mr. E. Norris Tolson, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation, with copies provided to numerous Congressional Delegations, other government officials, and representatives of the Carolina Power and Light Company. In your letter to Mr. Tolson, you expressed concern over the ability to evacuate citizens from your community in the event of an emergency at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

For your information, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does have a statutory legislative mandate to protect public health and safety, and this mandate is carried out through the enforcement of our regulations which are generally restricted to on-site operations, i.e., by ensuring that our licensees, in this case the Carolina Power and Light Company, effectively implement these regulations and operate their facilities in a safe manner.

Regarding health and safety in the public sector, Executive Order 12241, signed by the President and dated December 7, 1979, assigned the responsibility for off-site emergency preparedness as related to fixed nuclear facilities to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Hence, public health and safety which is traditionally the responsibility of the State and local governments, is carried out through the effective implementation of plans and procedures which are developed in accordance with the policies established by FEMA.

Currently, FEMA has approved the North Carolina site-specific Radiological Emergency Response Plan, which includes evacuation, for the off-site areas surrounding the Shearon Harris facility, and these plans have been developed in accordance with the Federal criteria specified in NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP 1, Revision 1, dated November 1980. Further, these criteria require that the State submit an annual letter of certification to FEMA certifying that the plan can in fact be implemented in a manner to protect public health and safety.

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Mayor Holleman

2

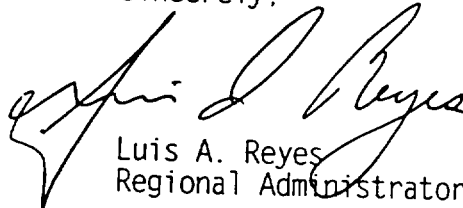
Emergency preparedness is a dynamic process and recognizing that changes do occur in the private sectors in the vicinity of fixed nuclear facilities, periodic reviews are undertaken by both the State and FEMA, and appropriate revisions are made, as necessary, to ensure continued public health and safety. The site-specific Radiological Emergency Response Plan for the Shearon Harris facility was last updated in 1997. We have discussed your concerns with the appropriate representatives of the State and FEMA, and by copy of this letter have provided them with a copy of your correspondence to Mr. Tolson. These State and FEMA officials may be contacted as follows:

Mr. John B. Copenhaver, Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Tel: (770) 220-4400

Mr. Stephen G. Payne, Lead Planner
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Division of Emergency Management
Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
State of North Carolina
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-1335
Tel: (919) 733-7554

Thank you for your expressed interest in public health and safety for your constituents in the Town of Holly Springs, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance to you. The individual on my staff responsible for State and government affairs is Bob Trojanowski, who can be reached at (404) 562-4427, in the event you would like to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

cc w/encl: John B. Copenhaver
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Lawrence A. Robertson, Chairman
Regional Assistance Committee
Federal Emergency Management Agency

E. Norris Tolson, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Stephen G. Payne
State of North Carolina

Mayor Holleman

3

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