



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region I
J.W. McCormack Post Office &
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Boston, MA 02109

June 1, 2001

Kathy Halvey Gibson, Chief
Emergency Preparedness and
Health Physics Section
Operator Licensing, Human Performance,
And Plant Support Branch
Division Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Safety
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Ms. Halvey Gibson:

FEMA Region I was asked to address question number six of your April 13, 2001, letter regarding the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station and the effect a recent winter storm had on the surrounding communities in Massachusetts. The inquiry has two distinct parts: (1) What, if any, provision does the Seabrook emergency action plan make for the possibility of a radiological emergency during a severe winter snowstorm of the type New England experienced in early March and, (2) what impact would such a storm have on evacuation and emergency response efforts?

The first part of the question pertains to onsite considerations and responsibilities, and is more appropriately addressed by the NRC.

In addressing the second part of your question, we would point out that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) opened its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to monitor the storm and provide assistance to local communities. From the EOC, MEMA monitored the conditions of evacuation routes during and after the storm and periodically conferred with FEMA staff at the Regional Operations Center (ROC). Following the utility shutdown, MEMA polled all communities and was informed that some of the evacuation routes in the Town of Amesbury were blocked. FEMA initiated and completed an abbreviated Post-Natural Disaster Reassessment of Off-Site Preparedness Capabilities review. FEMA Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory

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Commission were informed of the findings for their consideration in making a restart determination.

It should also be brought to your attention that, when developing Radiological Emergency Response Plans, Offsite Response Organizations (OROs) consider meteorological conditions. Possible adverse meteorological conditions are considered when designating Emergency Planning Zones (NUREG-0654 FEMA-REP-1, II.D.); and when analyzing evacuation times, "Two conditions—normal and adverse are considered in the analyses (NUREG-0654 FEMA-REP-1 IV.A). Further, traffic impediments are incorporated into and evaluated during the biennial radiological exercise (Radiological Emergency Preparedness Evaluation Methodology, FEMA-REP-15; Objective 17.10).

I hope that this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth L. Horak", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth L. Horak
Acting Regional Director