

December 16, 2004

Mr. L. William Pearce
Site Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077

SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) OBSERVATION
FROM THE MAY 11, 2004, BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Dear Mr. Pearce:

NRC Region I received a letter dated September 9, 2004, from Darrell Hammons, Chairperson, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region 3. In that letter (enclosed), FEMA concludes that a communication problem that was initially attributed to the offsite agencies is actually instead a Beaver Valley Power Station communication problems. In particular, plant status and offsite radiological release information was communicated in an untimely fashion to Pennsylvania Emergency Operations Center because of infrequent utility briefings within the emergency operations facility. Also, state representatives at the emergency operations facility (EOF) were not invited to the teleconference with the state and counties when the first protective action recommendation was discussed. The letter from FEMA mention other items that impacted the flow of information to the appropriate offsite officials.

During our evaluation of the May 11, 2004, exercise, the NRC evaluation team did not observe that communications within the EOF to be a performance issue on your part. However, an NRC Region I representative on the FEMA evaluation team, can confirm the select communications difficulties noted in the enclosure as well as heard them expressed by the Bureau of Radiation Protection staff in the EOF. His observations were initially discussed with your emergency preparedness staff following the exercise. Due to the importance of strong communications and a good working relationship with offsite agencies who support the emergency planning efforts around your site, we encourage you and your staff to review your assessment of the flow of information from your emergency response organization to the external stakeholders.

This issue was discussed with your emergency preparedness manager, Ms. S. Vicinie. She was aware of this issue from FEMA and is addressing it through your corrective action program under CR 04-09522. This will be an item of interest that we will observe in your 2006 NRC evaluated exercise.

Mr. L. William Pearce

2

In accordance with 10CFR2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos: 50-334, 50-412
License Nos: DPR-66, NPF-73

Enclosure: September 9, 2004, Letter from Darrell Hammons to Robert Bores

cc w/encl:

J. Lash, Director, Site Operations
R. Mende, Director, Performance Improvement
T. Cosgrove, Director, Nuclear Engineering/Projects
L. Freeland, Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs/Regulatory Compliance
M. Clancy, Mayor, Shippingport, PA
R. Janati, Chief, Division of Nuclear Safety, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
C. O'Claire, State Liaison to the NRC, State of Ohio
D. Hill, Chief, Radiological Health Program, State of West Virginia
R. Chiodo, Beaver County Emergency Management Agency
Darrell Hammons, RAC Chair, FEMA Region III

Mr. L. William Pearce

3

Distribution w/encl:

S. Collins, RA

J. Wiggins, DRA

P. Eselgroth, DRP

R. Barkley, DRP

J. Jolicoeur, RI OEDO

R. Laufer, NRR

T. Colburn, PM, NRR

R. Guzman, NRR

P. Cataldo - Senior Resident Inspector

P. Garrett - Resident OA

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

W. Lanning, DRS

R. Conte, DRS

D. Silk, DRS

DOCUMENT NAME: E:\Filenet\ML043510035.wpd

SISP Review Complete: RJC (Reviewer's Initials)

ADAMS PKG: ML043450309

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it **will** be released to the Public.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/DRS		RI/DRS		RI/DRP				
NAME	DSilk (DMS)		RConte (RJC)		PEselgroth (RSB for) w/changes				
DATE	12/ /04		12/ /04		12/15/04		12/ /04		12/ /04

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY