

October 29, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to thank you and your staff for their efforts to work cooperatively with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to promptly evaluate the status of offsite emergency preparedness surrounding the St. Lucie Steam Electric Station, Unit 2 and Turkey Point Steam Electric Station, Units 3 and 4, following their shutdowns due to Hurricane Wilma on October 24, 2005. This follows similarly successful cooperation in response to other hurricanes, including Katrina.

During the week of October 24, 2005, representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), accompanied by NRC staff, conducted a review of the status of the offsite emergency preparedness infrastructure surrounding the St. Lucie and Turkey Point sites, while NRC inspectors conducted an assessment of the general condition of onsite emergency preparedness. These assessments concluded that the emergency preparedness infrastructure, both onsite and offsite, was sufficient to support plant restart and provide reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures could be taken to protect public health and safety, if necessary. FEMA's timely and effective evaluation of the readiness of offsite conditions is greatly appreciated. The St. Lucie and Turkey Point plants have resumed supplying electricity to support recovery of the regional infrastructure.

I especially would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Craig Conklin, Ms. Vanessa Quinn, Ms. Mary Lynne Miller, Mr. Kelvin Kelkenberg, Mr. Conrad Burnside, and Mr. Lawrence Robertson of your FEMA staff for their dedicated effort that facilitated the prompt completion of the offsite review. In particular, Mr. Burnside, on very short notice, worked long hours under difficult circumstances. Under his leadership, the team was able to conduct its review in a professional and expeditious manner. I would appreciate your extending our thanks to those involved.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

cc: Craig Conklin, DHS
Vanessa Quinn, DHS
Mary Lynne Miller, DHS
Kelvin J. Kelkenberg, DHS
Conrad S. Burnside, DHS
Lawrence A. Robertson, DHS