



**FEMA**

AUG 05 2015

Mr. James K. Joseph, Director  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
2200 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, Illinois 62763-4528

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This is to inform you of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (DHS/FEMA) identification of one Level 1 Finding during the Dresden Nuclear Power Station's (DNPS) Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Full Participation Plume Exposure Pathway Exercise, conducted on July 29, 2015.

A Level 1 Finding is being assessed against Grundy County under the evaluation area criterion described below:

**CRITERION:** 5.a.1 – Activities associated with primary alerting and notification of the public are completed in a timely manner following the initial decision by authorized offsite emergency officials to notify the public of an emergency situation. The initial instructional message to the public must include as a minimum the elements required by current REP guidance. (NUREG-0654/FEMA REP-1 Rev 1., E5, E6, E7.)

A Level 1 Finding is defined in DHS/FEMA Policy Memorandum, dated May 15, 2015, as "an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a determination that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate protective measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a Nuclear Power Plant (NPP)."

**CONDITION:** During the DNPS Exercise key personnel of the Grundy County Emergency Operations Center used a decision-making process that could have increased radiation exposure for the general public when Protective Action Decisions were implemented.

**POSSIBLE CAUSE:** The sequence was not completed in a timely manner. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) message was incomplete. The order to sound sirens was not given.

**EFFECT:** Delays in processing the EAS message could have led to increased exposure. Persons in the affected Sub-Areas would not have been aware that an EAS message was being broadcast. The message did not include information regarding the brochure/calendar. The closing was omitted, therefore, people would not have been aware to stay tuned for further information.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The alert and notification process needs to be completed with a sense of urgency. Procedures must be followed to ensure that steps are not omitted.

In accordance with 44 CFR 350.9(d), we have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Because of the potential impact this finding has on public health and safety, it must be corrected within 120 days after the exercise date (July 29, 2015) through appropriate remedial actions, including exercises, drills, or other actions.

This issue was presented to the exercise participants, including the State of Illinois, Grundy County, and Kendall County staff during the post-exercise Participant's Meeting conducted on July 31, 2015, and through more detailed discussions with your staff.

Please coordinate with this office a Schedule of Corrective Actions, including the date, time and identification of those organizations and participants by title participating in a remedial exercise, and any other actions no later than 20 days after the exercise, which is August 18, 2015.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to FEMA Headquarters, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters, and NRC Region III.

Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Sean O'Leary, Chairman, Regional Assistance Committee, at (312) 408-5389.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Velasquez III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "III" clearly visible at the end.

Andrew Velasquez III  
Regional Administrator

cc: FEMA Headquarters  
NRC Headquarters  
NRC Region III