



FEMA

October 27, 2016

Marissa Bailey
Director, Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T4D22A
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Ms. Bailey:

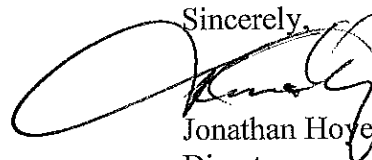
This letter is to inform you that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed its Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) of the State of South Carolina and local offsite response organizations continued capability to adequately respond to an incident at the HB Robinson Nuclear Power Plant following Hurricane Matthew that affected in and around the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone communities' communication capabilities, Emergency Operations Center functionality, and possibly blocked evacuation routes.

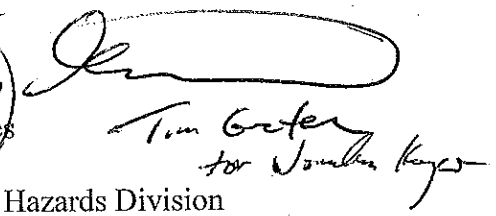
On October 8, 2016, a comprehensive investigation and collection of field data was performed by the joint FEMA/Nuclear Regulatory Commission DIR Team, in accordance with FEMA's Post Disaster Assessment of Offsite Capabilities procedure.

Based on the review of this information, FEMA concludes that offsite radiological emergency preparedness is adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the HB Robinson Nuclear Power Plant. At this time, FEMA is not aware of any unresolved offsite emergency preparedness issues around HB Robinson Nuclear Power Plant; and therefore, we have no objections to plant startup and full-power operations.

Please see attached the full report from FEMA Region IV. If you have questions, please contact me at (202) 212-2376, if you have any questions or require any further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Hoyes
Director
Technological Hazards Division


Tom Ceter
for Jonathan Hoyes

Attachment – Preliminary Capability Assessment – HB Robinson Steam Electric Generating Plant



FEMA

October 9, 2016

Memorandum For: Jonathon Hoyes, Director
Technological Hazards Division

Through: Vanessa Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section
KR Keyes for
Conrad Burnside, Chief
Technological Hazards Branch

From: *KR Keyes*
Kevin Keyes, North Section Chief
DIR Team Leader

Subject: Preliminary Capability Assessment – Hurricane Matthew – HB Robinson Steam Electric Generating Plant

Background

The loss of offsite power at HB Robinson on October 8, 2016, was caused by perturbations on the grid that provided a low voltage trip to the offsite power source. HB Robinson was at 100% power at the time and those perturbations could have come from anywhere on the grid. At the same time Hurricane Matthew impacted the State of South Carolina, the risk counties of Darlington, Chesterfield and Lee and the host county of Florence. The specific impacts to the HB Robinson 10-mile emergency planning zone was wind, rain and flooding.

Assessment

Operational Coordination

The State of South Carolina, risk and host counties activated their emergency operations center and continue the response and recovery operations at the time of this assessment. Emergency response facilities within the state, risk and host counties were not compromised. All facilities were actively supporting Hurricane Matthew response operations at the time of this report.

Operational Communications

Primary and secondary communication systems are operable and the state, risk and host counties have additional redundant communications in place.

Public Information and Warning

The prompt alert and notification system for the 10-mile emergency planning zone consists of a fixed siren system and the broadcast of emergency alert system messages. This system has 61 pole mounted sirens placed strategically throughout the emergency planning zone. As of this assessment, all sirens are operable with 30 on backup battery power due to localized loss of AC power. Siren batteries can last seven days without an AC power supply and Duke Energy has a replacement strategy in place to replace batteries if needed. The risk counties have the resources to conduct backup route alerting if a situation arose. AC power to the sirens will be restored as the power to the local area is restored. There is no definitive time frame for complete restoration of power to the local areas.

Situational Assessment

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has the staff, equipment and resources available to provide independent radiological dose assessment and provide recommendations to decision makers on protective actions for the health and safety of the public.

Environmental Response, Health and Safety

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has the staff, equipment and resources available to deploy the state's radiological field monitoring teams to monitor and assess a radiological plume. Additionally, the risk and host counties ability to monitor and decontaminate the public and emergency workers remain intact.

On-Scene Security, Protection and Law Enforcement

The state, risk and host counties maintain satisfactory law enforcement assets to perform the duties required of them. Darlington County has one portion of an evacuation route impacted; state and county law enforcement agencies have rerouted traffic on Hwy 52 bypassing the impediment without degradation to the evacuation route.

Critical Transportation

The state, risk and host counties maintain enough transportation assets to fulfill requirements. Movement of transportation dependent populations to include disabled, access/functional needs and schools remain unencumbered. There is no degradation of this capability.

Mass Care Services

The risk and host counties have the available resources to staff and operate reception and congregate care centers in accordance with their plans and procedures. As of this assessment, the following sheltering activities are in place:

Darlington County: one open shelter; capacity not impacted
Chesterfield County: capacity not impacted
Lee County: one open shelter; capacity not impacted
Florence County: six open shelters; the Civic Center available; shelter capacity not impacted.

Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services

Carolina Pines Regional Medical and McLeod Cheraw hospital facilities are operational and capable to provide treatment to radiological contaminated injured individuals in accordance with plans and procedures. The emergency medical services of the risk and host counties are capable and available to respond, care and transport a radiological contaminated injured individuals.

Findings

Based on the information collected for this capability assessment, the offsite response organizations of the State of South Carolina, the risk counties of Darlington, Chesterfield and Lee and the host county of Florence:

Capabilities at the state, risk and host counties were performed during Hurricane Matthew without impact on the overall capabilities previously assessed.

An analysis of damages associated with Matthew provided no indication of diminished capability but indicated a level of resiliency which should be noted.

Based on the review no additional compensatory measures were identified to be required as a result of this assessment.

These statements complete the disaster initiated review made necessary by the passage of Hurricane Matthew through the risk and host counties for the HB Robinson Steam Electric Generating Plant.

FEMA evaluated the HB Robinson offsite emergency preparedness exercise on July 21-23, 2015. FEMA determined, based on the results of the exercise and analysis of South Carolina's annual letter of certification, the 44 CFR 350 approval of the State of South Carolina and associated local plans and preparedness site specific for the HB Robinson plant granted on December 29, 1981 will continue. The results of this disaster initiated review have not impacted this finding.