



FEMA

July 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Michael Casey, Director
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security- FEMA

THROUGH: Vanessa Quinn, Chief
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FROM: Randall Hecht, Chief/RAC Chair
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SUBJECT: Preliminary Capabilities Assessment – Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

On July 16, 2019, FEMA RIV conducted a Preliminary Capabilities Assessment (PCA) on the offsite emergency preparedness within the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station 10-mile emergency planning zone. Based upon discussions with the State of Mississippi and Claiborne County, and a review of information gathered, we have concluded that a formal Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) is not required. The Regional Administrator and the Federal Preparedness Coordinator are aware of this decision.

Background:

Hurricane Barry made landfall in the morning of Saturday July 13, 2019, bringing rain, strong winds, and floods to portions of the State of Mississippi. The Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, operated by Entergy, is located near the City of Port Gibson in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Portions of Claiborne and a small part of Warren Counties in Mississippi, and Tensas Parish, Louisiana lie within the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ). The Grand Gulf Nuclear Station remained at 100% operation throughout the event.

FEMA Region IV, in consultation with FEMA RVI reviewed the off-site capabilities of the response organizations as it relates to the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. FEMA has concluded that offsite radiological emergency preparedness remains adequate to provide a reasonable assurance determination and that appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. This decision is based upon the following review:

Assessment:

1. Emergency Response Facilities

The State of Mississippi and the affected risk counties activated their emergency operations centers in response to Hurricane Barry. The State emergency operations center in Jackson continues to operate at level 4, virtual activation. All risk county emergency operations centers are currently in normal operations, completing recovery and restoration services. The emergency operation centers were not compromised and are capable of coordinating emergency response operations in support of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station.

2. Communications

Primary and secondary communication systems are operable and functioning. No irregularities were noted in the primary or secondary means of communication between Entergy, the State and the risk counties.

3. Emergency Response Organizations

The affected communities continue to ensure a safe and secure environment by State and county emergency management, law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services response organizations. Law enforcement agencies can establish traffic and access control points. Fire service and other emergency workers are capable of establishing designated emergency worker and vehicle decontamination stations to perform radiological monitoring and decontamination of emergency workers and vehicles.

4. Public Alert and Notification

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. The prompt alert and notification system of the 10-mile emergency planning zone is operable. The risk counties have the resources to conduct backup route alerting if needed. The State's joint information system can make emergency public information and instructions relative to the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in a timely manner.

5. Access and Functional Needs and Transportation Resources

The State and risk 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.

6. Evacuation Routes

The State and risk counties maintain satisfactory law enforcement assets to perform the duties required of them. Primary evacuation routes inside of the 10-mile emergency planning zone are passable.

7. Accident Assessment

The Mississippi Department of Health, Division of Radiological Health 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. The section can deploy the state's radiological field monitoring teams to monitor and assess a radiological plume. Additionally, the risk counties ability to monitor and decontaminate the public and emergency workers remain intact.

8. Support 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. The supporting county emergency medical services have not been degraded and are capable to respond, care, and transport a radiological contaminated injured individual.

9. Population Shifts

There has been no significant population shift due to the incident.

10. Supporting Documentation

All supporting documentation gathered will be retained on file at FEMA Region IV.

Conclusion:

In part and along with this capability review, all community lifelines remain stable. The State of Mississippi and affected counties surrounding the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station have the ability to implement their emergency radiological plans as written.