

Route 3 Box 766
Crystal River, FL 32629
11 August 1981

Mr. Brian Grimes
Division of Emergency Planning
U.S.N.R.C.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Citrus County, Florida
emergency warning system

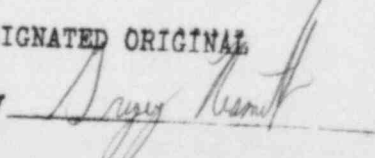
Dear Sir:

The N.R.C. mandated off-site emergency warning system in my area is a fiasco. Having tried, to no avail, through the County Commissioner for my district to get Florida Power Corporation and/or Citrus County to alleviate a deplorable situation, my recourse is now the N.R.C.

The situation in the northwestern section of Citrus County would be comedic if problems at the Crystal River Nuclear Plant were not ever present - I believe it has shut down eight times during the first seven months of 1981; hardly an enviable record. It appears that the warning sirens were not factory installed and are a malfunctioning mess. During the highly touted initial disaster emergency drill not a siren was heard in my neighborhood by anyone I talked with - no mention of that major glitch in the glowing aftermath reports of Citrus County's disaster preparedness. I understand that initially the systems were incorrectly wired. Evidently there has been overkill on the correction of the wiring problem, for there have been times when a siren in proximity to my home has gone off with great vigor - air traffic and lightening are chalked up as causes for these 5+ minute bloopers. Weekly tests, according to public notice, are to be conducted on Saturdays at 7 P.M. - silence reigns in the northwest section of the County. But at 10 P.M. on a Monday night, on Fridays at approximately 9:50 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 11:40 A.M. and 12:20 P.M. (approximate times) and on a Sunday at 9:30 A.M. the sirens have gone off. The Sunday morning siren was a "test" - seems the maintenance person was leaving on vacation ASAP. As an aside, the July 26, 1981 Sunday test took place after the County Commission, in public meeting on July 22, 1981, stated that the siren would be silenced. The turning off was noted in the papers, and the test was not. It appears to me that the tail of Disaster Preparedness wags the dog.

Currently the siren on U.S. 19 approximately two miles south of the Barge Canal is down (decoder pulled, according to Disaster Preparedness) and the one just north of the same Barge Canal is assumed not to be in working condition, as it was not heard this past Saturday at "test time". Note that as much trouble as has occurred on this

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particular siren, there was no monitor on station last Saturday to ascertain its workability. The only siren recently heard in my locale was one located in Levy County (it too is spastic) which wailed on a Thursday, August 6th until silenced by a member of the local population.

I have no idea how many malfunctions occur within the entire warning network. Incidentally, the klaxon soundings mentioned prior in this letter have all been heard while I was outside. Although I am less than 3/4 mile from one siren and within 2 miles of three others, I am unable to hear the tones within my residence with windows and doors shut (air conditioning). A young resident of a mobile home who lives even closer to two of the sirens than I stated that she cannot hear the sirens when her home is closed up. Neither of us have a hearing problem. Our area is composed of 40-60% retirees plus there are those of us who are not blessed with strong hearts. Needless strain is unwarranted and unwanted.

In sum - PLEASE DO SOMETHING or make the "Powers That Be" do something to alleviate the spastic situation and mandate installation of a reliable and workable system with competent, trained maintenance personnel. What we are subjected to is both dangerous and harassing. One local newspaper columnist summed it up saying "I would hate to think anyone's life depended on them" (sirens).

I would appreciate a reply as to what steps the N.R.C. is going to take to ensure proper operation and maintenance of their mandated off-site emergency warning system.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Virginia W. Spitt

Virginia W. Splitt

Copy: Senator Hawkins

ACTION ITEM CONTROL FORM

A. INITIATING OFFICE

ASSIGNED TRACKING NUMBER										03. PRIORITY		04. A/I TYPE		05. DATE OF REPORT			06. DATE OF TRANSACTION					
01. SENDING OFFICE		02. SEQUENCE NUMBER												MONTH			DAY			YEAR		
H11		002629								Y		ED		02			11			82		
07. FACILITY										08. REQUESTED COMPLETION DATE				09. REQUESTER								
										MONTH DAY YEAR												
										031582R				C DeYoung								
10. DESCRIPTION																						
EDO-11549-Sen Hawkins-Ltr																						
fr V Splitt to Grimes re																						
emergency warning sys fo																						
r Citrus County Florida.																						

B. ACTION OFFICE

01. RECEIVING OFFICE										FO1 FO2 FO3 FO4 FO5 HO6 HO7 HO8 HO9 H10 H11 H12													
Grimes										(Check appropriate office code)													
02. PERSON ASSIGNED										ESTABLISHED COMPLETION DATE													
										03. MONTH DAY YEAR													
										04. CHANGE NUMBER													
TRANSFER INFORMATION																							
05. TRANSFER ACTION										06. TRANSFER CODE						07. TRANSFER DATE							
																MONTH DAY YEAR							
CLOSEOUT INFORMATION																							
08. CLOSEOUT ACTION										09. MAN-HOURS		10. CLOSE-OUT CODE		11. CLOSEOUT DATE						12. REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGED			
														MONTH DAY YEAR									



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

Per Mr. Sherrick
Fema letter
dispatched
3/17/82
FEPAGANO

DRAFT COPY

Honorable Paula Hawkins
United States Senator
P.O. Box 2000
Winter Park, Florida 32790

NOT SIGNED

FHS 3/10/82

Dear Senator Hawkins:

This is in reply to your letter of February 11, 1982, on behalf of Ms. Virginia W. Splitt of Crystal River, Florida. Ms. Splitt wrote to you concerning plant shutdowns and the malfunctions of the sirens (alert and notification system) at the Crystal River Power Plant.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has the lead responsibility in providing guidance and assistance to State and local governments for offsite radiological emergency plans and preparedness in the event of a commercial nuclear power accident. FEMA assists in developing and reviewing these plans and providing an overall coordination of the Federal emergency response of State and local governments who need Federal ~~help~~ ASSISTANCE.

The internal operations of nuclear power plants and the installation of the alert and notification systems are under the purview of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Ms. Splitt's questions regarding the malfunctions of the alert and notification system and the concerns on the unscheduled plant shutdowns are being addressed and forwarded directly to the attention of Robert Engle by the NRC.

FEMA is responsible for the verification that the alert and notification system at each nuclear power plant licensed by the NRC meets the requirements of NUREG-0654, FEMA REP.1, Rev. (copy enclosed). FEMA is presently in the process of developing a procedure that will test the alert and notification system of each nuclear power plant. This procedure will determine if the sirens function at a sound level capable of alerting individuals located within the 10-mile emergency planning zone. The notification system (Emergency Broadcasting System) will also be tested under this procedure. Commercial nuclear power plants which fail to meet the standards of NUREG-0654 will be required to correct or upgrade their alert and notification systems as needed.

Ms. Splitt may be interested to know that a full-scale emergency plans and preparedness exercise for the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant is scheduled for March 30, 1982. During that exercise, NRC and FEMA officials will observe and evaluate the response capabilities of the utility as well as the State and local governments' response organizations to determine their effectiveness in responding to a radiological emergency.

On March 29, 1982, at 7 p.m., a public meeting will be held at the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Citrus County Court House, Inverness, Florida, at which time the radiological emergency response plans will be discussed ~~with attendance~~ by representatives from the Florida Power and Light Corporation, NRC and FEMA, and State and local governmental officials. Because this will be a public meeting, Ms. Splitt is encouraged to attend.

If I can be of further assistance in this regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lee M. Thomas
Associate Director
State and Local Programs
and Support

Enclosure

NRC?



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with Reg II

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NOT SIGNED
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