

JUN 04 1985

The Honorable Louis O. Giuffrida, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Giuffrida:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed its role and functions in national emergency preparedness planning which were formulated and approved by the Commission shortly after the NRC was established in 1975 and are responsive to Executive Order 11490 and Executive Order 11953. There had not been a critical review of these responsibilities since then, although there have been significant discussions and changes in the role of the NRC in emergencies involving NRC-licensed activities.

The Commission has determined that this agency has functions that can be interrupted for a short period of time during a nuclear attack and thus should be changed from being designated as a Category A agency. In light of this determination and the program requirements described in FEMA guidance, the Commission has concluded that NRC's national emergency functions fit the Category B guidance. Therefore, the NRC will develop and implement a program that meets the basic Category B program requirements.

This is to request that you redesignate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as an agency with Category B responsibilities. I further request continued FEMA assistance to the NRC staff in making the appropriate modifications to NRC plans and procedures to comply with this position. The NRC manager responsible for making these modifications is Kenneth E. Perkins (492-7361).

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

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The Commission has determined that this agency has functions that can be interrupted for a short period of time during a nuclear attack and thus should be changed from being designated as a Category A agency. The functions that the Commission had previously identified as essential, uninterruptible functions [i.e., (1) damage assessment, (2) threat assessment, (3) minimizing hazards to health and safety consistent with the national interest, and (4) determining whether it is safe to operate NRC-licensed facilities] can be interrupted but must be resumed as soon as practical in a national emergency.

In light of this determination and the program requirements described in FEMA guidance, the Commission has concluded that NRC's national emergency functions fit the Category B guidance. Therefore, the NRC will develop and implement a program that meets the basic Category B program requirements.

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In light of this determination and the program requirements described in FEMA guidance, the Commission has concluded that NRC's national emergency functions fit the Category B guidance. Consistent with fiscal and personnel budget restrictions, the NRC will develop and implement a program that meets the basic Category B program requirements.

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However, in view of the limited personnel and financial resources available to this agency to carry out its responsibilities, only a limited program can be carried out. We have reviewed the Category B program requirements and will take actions to meet basic minimal requirements provided in FEMA guidance.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MEMORANDUM FOR: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: SECY-85-53 - IMPLEMENTATION OF CATEGORY B REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

This is in response to an April 10, 1985, memorandum from your office regarding implementation of Category B requirements for the Continuity of Government (COG) program and the concern about ensuring reasonable implementation of this program over the long term.

We have discussed the program outlined in SECY-85-53 with FEMA. Although they agree with our concept of utilizing the NRC Incident Response teams to man the required Alpha and Bravo teams, FEMA questioned ~~the NRC staff about~~ the potential for limitations in training, procedure development and participation in COG exercises *resulting from resource constraints* ~~expanding the program~~.

Budget requests for FY86 and 87 contain the minimum resources to establish and maintain an agency capability to meet Category B requirements. In addition to a specific designation of resources for COG, the budget requests recognize that a portion of the manpower is from overhead and a portion from efficiencies between closely related incident response and continuity of government activities. Those related activities are designated incident response in the budget.

I have sent the enclosed letter to FEMA requesting that they redesignate NRC as an agency with Category B responsibilities.

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to FEMA

cc: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Zech
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OPE

Contact: B. H. Weiss, IE
(301) 492-7053



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