



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 10, 1996

Mr. O. Megs Hepler, III  
Director  
Exercises Division  
Preparedness, Training, and Exercises Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Hepler:

This is a follow up to our meeting on September 18, 1996, regarding NRC's public responsiveness initiative. The purpose of this program is to be more open and responsive to the public. As we both recognize, public meetings can enhance the public's confidence in NRC and FEMA and will help to clarify concerns before any decisions are made. We are undertaking this effort as part of NRC's enhanced public responsiveness program which was launched by our Executive Director for Operations on July 27, 1994.

In the Emergency Preparedness area, NRC has committed to hold a public meeting following the biennial exercise inspection. The meeting would be led by the inspection team leader or, in some cases, the resident inspector at that site or some other designated NRC official. The requirement to hold a public meeting and the subsequent guidance has been included in the NRC inspection procedure covering the inspection and evaluation of licensee's biennial exercises. Attachment 1 is a copy of the proposed requirement and guidance sections from this inspection procedure.

As you know, NRC has always participated in FEMA's public meeting (10 CFR 44.350.9(e)), following emergency preparedness biennial exercises. NRC is usually represented in this meeting by the NRC inspection team leader, although occasionally it may be the resident inspector or the RAC member. For efficiency and effective use of resources, since NRC is already present in the FEMA meeting, we would like to hold the NRC public meeting in conjunction with FEMA's meeting. Under this arrangement, obtaining meeting space and the notification of the public would not be duplicated. This could be accomplished by holding a joint meeting where NRC and FEMA would co-conduct the meeting. NRC would present the preliminary onsite inspection findings and FEMA would present the offsite results. The NRC representative would solicit questions from meeting attendees either immediately following his/her presentation or at some other mutually acceptable time during the meeting. We believe that this Q & A session is an important part of the public meeting and is consistent with the spirit of our enhanced public responsiveness program.

As discussed in our meeting, we would like to implement this revised inspection procedure in the next three weeks. It is requested that FEMA provide its comments on this proposal by October 31, 1996, so that those

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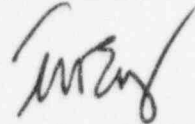
Mr. O. Megs Hepler, III

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October 10, 1996

comments may be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the inspection procedure. It is recognized that the turnaround time for FEMA's comments is short. We appreciate your prompt response to this matter. Should you need any assistance with this proposal, please contact Dr. Lawrence K. Cohen of my staff. Dr. Cohen can be reached at 301-415-2923.

Sincerely,



*for* Charles L. Miller, Chief  
Emergency Preparedness and  
Radiation Protection Branch  
Division of Reactor Program Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment as stated:

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Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Thomas Essig for:

Charles L. Miller, Chief

Emergency Preparedness and

Radiation Protection Branch

Division of Reactor Program Management

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment as stated:

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