



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 27, 1997

SD-206
SD - 361
SD - 362

Mr. Ben Tong
Governors Office of Emergency Management
2800 Meadowview Road
Sacramento, CA 95898

Mr. Steve Woods
Radiation Health Branch
601 N. 7th Street, MS 178
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

Dear Mr. Tong and Mr. Woods:

This letter documents the agreements reached on January 21, 1997 among both of you, Gene Bates of NRC Region IV, and myself and subsequently with Linda Vasta-Huerta of FEMA Region IX the next day regarding Federal participation in the San Onofre Exercise in the fall of 1997. It is my understanding that the State of California has agreed to postpone the Ingestion Pathway and Recovery portion of this exercise pending consensus from FEMA Region IX, Southern California Edison and SONGS local jurisdictions. This decision is based, in part, upon a request from the NRC to postpone Federal participation in this exercise. In exchange for this postponement, the NRC and other Federal organizations agree to give serious consideration and a good faith commitment to participate (at a level to be determined) in a Federal participation exercise. This will allow for a more integrated Federal participation in the exercise in 1999 in which the NRC would be the Lead Federal Agency and can assist in obtaining additional Federal support. This exercise is an evaluated six-year cycle ingestion and recovery exercise scheduled in California in 1999. In addition, the NRC has agreed to conduct a State Outreach session in California for CA, AZ, OR, and WA on May 28 and 29, 1997. Postponement of the exercise has been communicated to and confirmed with Department of Energy representative Mr. Steve Ronshaugen, DOE/NV and Ms. Rhonda Hopkins, DOE Bechtel contractor with no adverse impact anticipated by DOE.

The NRC appreciates the California initiative in pursuing Federal participation in this and other exercises as it provides for greater realism and the opportunity to exercise with elements and organizations not normally available to participate. In this regard, the NRC is now considering participation in a similar exercise with Salem and the States of New Jersey and Delaware in 1998. The Salem exercise may help determine the way in which we could participate with California in 1999. Therefore, I would encourage California representatives to observe that exercise. Further information will be provided on this effort when it is available.

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Thank you for your prompt reconsideration of this matter and the opportunity to work with you in emergency response and exercise planning. If you have any further comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-415-7559, E-mail: EDW@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely Yours,

Original Signed By:

Eric Weinstein
State Liaison for Incident Response
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

cc:

Rhonda Hopkins, Bechtel LV
Steve Ronshaugen, DOE/LV
Gene Bates, RIV
Ms. Linda Vasta-Huerta, FEMA IX

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