



FEMA

June 16, 2020

Ms. Kathryn Brock
Director, Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T4D22A
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: COVID-19 Preparedness Assessments for FEMA Region V's Commercial Nuclear Power Plants

Dear Ms. Brock:

Pursuant to the FEMA Preparedness Assessment Framework – COVID-19 memorandum dated May 13, 2020, FEMA Region V completed assessments for the States of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and associated local communities within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of their 15 Commercial Nuclear Power Plants. These assessments included the examination of the local offsite response organizations (OROs) in order to assess their continued capability to adequately respond to an incident at the Stations.

Based on the conducted assessments and our review of available information gathered from discussions with the OROs, FEMA concludes that offsite radiological emergency preparedness remains adequate to provide "Reasonable Assurance" and that appropriate measures can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in a radiological emergency at all of the 15 Nuclear Power Plants. At this time, FEMA is not initiating any further actions.

If FEMA does become aware of any degradation of the offsite infrastructure or a significant reduction in ORO capabilities that could directly impact public health and safety, FEMA stands ready to initiate assessments and forward the findings to the NRC for appropriate review and action.



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Please contact me at 202-704-4242, or Vanessa Quinn, Vanessa.Quinn@fema.dhs.gov, 202-577-8504, should you have any questions or require any further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Casey".

Michael S. Casey, Ph.D.
Director
Technological Hazards Division

Attachments:
Region V Assessment

cc: Deputy Administrator, Resilience
Assistant Administrator, National Preparedness Directorate
Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery
REP Program Branch Chief
Region V RAC Chair
FEMA National Watch Center



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
536 S. Clark St. 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

FEMA

June 15, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Hampton Hart, Acting Director
Technological Hazards Division

FROM:

Sean O'Leary, Branch Chief
National Preparedness Division
Technological Hazards Branch

Sean O'Leary

SUBJECT: Continuous Situational Awareness of Reasonable Assurance
Around the Commercial Nuclear Power Plants Located in FEMA
Region V During SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19

Beginning March 13, 2020, FEMA Region V, National Preparedness Division, Technological Hazards Branch, Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP), initiated and continuously monitored the ongoing situation related to the capabilities of the state and local governments participating in REPP around the fifteen commercial nuclear power plants in the region. Each of our commercial nuclear power plants has an assigned emergency management specialist with responsibilities to maintain situational awareness of the abilities and capabilities of those states and counties that provide reasonable assurance protections to the public in accordance with 44 CFR 350, 351, and 354; NUREG-0654 FEMA REP-1, and the REP Program Manual. Our REPP staff maintains situational awareness of their assigned areas of responsibility through conversations with REPP stakeholders at all levels of government using state daily lifeline and capability updates, regional common operating picture reports, and federal liaison snapshots.

FEMA Region V's Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) receives daily situational updates of each state and their counties from their respective state emergency operations centers and FEMA designated liaisons working to exchange information and requirements.

The state and local governments have reported that they remain capable to respond to an incident at any of the nuclear power plants in the region. Their response capabilities are intact and available to include, as demonstrated by several states impacted by severe weather during their response to the pandemic: communications systems; emergency public alert and warning systems; and independent dose assessment and field monitoring systems. Additionally, if necessary intrastate or interstate mutual aid would be requested, followed by federal assistance if deemed necessary, public alert and warning systems would not be impacted by COVID-19.

Medical equipment and medical personnel personal protective equipment (PPE) is in place. Hospitals and public health officials continually monitor requirements and have been ensuring a supply of

necessary materials. The states have taken, and continue to take, the correct steps in requesting PPE and using the burn rate calculator to put in resource requests. Currently, no reports of critical shortages or impacts to PPE used by fire departments, law enforcement, or other public safety agencies have been noted by state or local emergency management agencies in FEMA Region V.

In FEMA Region V, the state public health and county emergency management agencies maintain their capability to manage multiple events at each of the designated emergency medical services and hospitals. To date, FEMA Region V has not been informed that any hospital with responsibilities for treating a radiologically contaminated injured patient due to an accident at a commercial nuclear power plant are not taking patients, or that they are incapable providing treatment of a radiologically contaminated injured patient in an emergency.

Based on FEMA Region V's continuous monitoring of the states' and local governments' capabilities and impact of CoV-SARS-2/COVID-19, all offsite response organizations are capable to respond. Their status is determined to be "Green"/stable.

The current response posture allows for a heightened awareness and more robust response capability due to these activations. One can argue that federal, state, and local leaders are maintaining a higher level of situational awareness of their capabilities due to the COVID-19 response.

Since March 13, 2020, to the present, the reports obtained from federal, state, and local officials indicate that the conduct of a preliminary capability assessment is not warranted given the current situation. All emergency response resources, community infrastructure, equipment, and staff are available to implement their radiological emergency response plans that have been approved pursuant to 44 CFR 350.

FEMA Region V REP staff will provide a status report and notify THD-REP if there are any changes to a state's or county's status.

Cc:

NRC Region III

Michael Chesney, FPC, FEMA Region V