



**FEMA**

DATE: June 15, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Hampton H. Hart Jr., Deputy Director  
Technological Hazards Division  
National Preparedness Directorate

FROM: Susan D.C. O'Neill, Chief Technological Hazards Branch  
Chair, Regional Assistance Committee FEMA RII

CC: Vanessa Quinn, Chief  
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch  
Technological Hazards Division

SUBJECT: Preliminary Capabilities Assessments following COVID-19

In response to the Presidential national emergency declaration for the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Preparedness Assessment Framework outlines how the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) will continue to assess the preparedness capabilities within our stakeholder communities to ensure the ongoing protection of public health and safety.

Preliminary Capabilities Assessments (PCAs) were conducted in Region II's most impacted REPP counties due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the offsite response organizations (OROs). From the onset of the COVID-19 response, my team and I have been in contact with our stakeholders assessing their capabilities and obtaining information on the status of their efforts. Additionally, we have monitored the information provided on public sites on impacts to responders, facilities and communities to obtain real data to analyze the situation in order to make informed decisions on capabilities. These impacts could be on the number of personnel that are available, the number of trained personnel and facilities used in the REP Program.

Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam Counties were some of the most impacted counties in the country and Westchester, as the host county to the Indian Point Energy Center, had many of their facilities and personnel activated during this pandemic. Therefore, PCAs were conducted

for these counties and for the State of New York on June 9, 2020. Based on the PCA performed, our review of available information gathered in discussions with the OROs, FEMA Region II has concluded that offsite radiological emergency preparedness (EP) 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 the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC). At this time, FEMA is not initiating any further action within the IPEC 10-mile emergency planning zone. 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 its findings to the NRC for appropriate review and action.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 202-309-4554 or via email at [Susan.Oneill@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Susan.Oneill@fema.dhs.gov).