

May 5, 1997

Mr. Donald A. Reid
Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
RD 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
IDENTIFIED DEFICIENCY AT THE MARCH 19, 1997 VERMONT
YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EXERCISE

Dear Mr. Reid:

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Louis A. Elisa, II, Regional Director for FEMA Region I, dated March 31, 1997, which officially notified the State of Vermont of a deficiency identified during the March 19, 1997, full-participation exercise with the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

The deficiency was assessed against the Brattleboro Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for its failure to complete the initial alert and notification sequence within the required time period. However, subsequent alert and notification sequences were completed within the required times, therefore, no remedial demonstration was required and the deficiency was considered corrected. Details of the deficiency are provided in the enclosed FEMA letter.

No response to this letter is required. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (610) 337-5258.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: *[Signature]*
James T. Wiggins
Director, DRS.

Michael C. Modes, Chief
Emergency Preparedness and Safeguards
Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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Docket No. 50-271

Enclosure:
FEMA Letter dated March 31, 1997

150024



cc w/encl:

- R. McCullough, Operating Experience Coordinator - Vermont Yankee
- R. Wanczyk, Director, Safety and Regulatory Affairs
- G. Maret, Plant Manager
- J. Duffy, Licensing Engineer, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
- J. Gilroy, Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
- D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire
- Chief, Safety Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- R. Gad, Esquire
- G. Bisbee, Esquire
- T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
- State of New Hampshire, SLO Designee
- State of Vermont, SLO Designee
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

Distribution w/encl:

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region I
J.W. McCormack Post Office &
Courthouse Building, Room 442
Boston, MA 02109

March 31, 1997

George L. Lowe, Director
Vermont Emergency Management Agency
Department of Public Safety
Waterbury Complex
103 Main Street, Box 2101
Waterbury, VT 05671

Dear Director Lowe:

This letter officially informs you of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) identification of a Deficiency which occurred during the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise conducted on March 19, 1997. This issue was discussed with your staff on March 21, 1997, and at the post-exercise participants briefing on March 24, 1997.

As a result of this Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station exercise, a deficiency has been assessed in accordance with NUREG 0654 and FEMA-REP-14 page C.16-1. The Deficiency is assessed against the Brattleboro Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

The Deficiency is being assessed against the Brattleboro EOC under Objective 10: Alert and Notification. The Deficiency resulted from Brattleboro's EOC failure to complete the initial alert and notification sequence within fifteen minutes of the decision to do so. In accordance with FEMA-REP-14, page D.10-3, the identification of a Deficiency is required when a jurisdiction fails to complete the initial alert and notification sequence within 15 minutes after a decision to do so.

At the Brattleboro EOC, the message for the initial siren sounding was received at 1025. Instructions were to sound sirens at 1028 with the EBS message to follow at 1031. There was a delay between the Communications Center, the EOC Director, the Clerk, and the Fire Department so that the sirens were not sounded until 1033. This resulted in the first siren sounding occurring after the initial EBS message. The next EBS broadcast after siren sounding occurred at 1046, 28 minutes after the State's initial decision. All subsequent siren activation sequences directed by the State were completed within the fifteen minutes criterion.

In accordance with 44 CFR 350.9 (d) and FEMA-REP-14, we have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with FEMA Headquarters, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and FEMA Region I Radiological Assistance Committee members. FEMA-REP-14, page C.16-1, defines a Deficiency as "... an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate protective measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant". Because of the potential impact of a Deficiency on the public health and safety, it should be corrected within 120 days after the exercise through appropriate remedial

actions, including remedial exercises, drills, or other actions, including plan revisions.

In view of the fact that all subsequent alert and notification sequences were accomplished in accordance with Brattleboro's plans and procedures and within 15 minutes of the State's decision to activate the system, a remedial demonstration will not be required. This Deficiency is considered corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan McElhinney, Chairperson, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region I, at (617) 223-9567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis A. Elisa II". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Louis A. Elisa II
Regional Director
FEMA Region I