

October 4, 2010

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I am responding to your August 24, 2010, letter requesting that an additional public meeting be held in Westchester County, New York, on the proposed changes to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) emergency preparedness guidance document NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Supplement 3.

While I certainly understand your interest in having a meeting in Westchester County, I believe that, at this time, the NRC has received a wide range of input from stakeholders around the country. However, additional public meetings will be held next calendar year to seek stakeholder input on implementation of recent changes to emergency preparedness regulations and guidance, including discussion of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Supplement 3. We will ensure that your office, New York State and Westchester County officials, and members of the public in New York are informed of these events in advance, as we would welcome their additional insights. The following discussion summarizes our efforts to solicit stakeholder feedback on the proposed changes to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1.

The NRC first proposed changes to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 in the *Federal Register* on March 8, 2010, and requested comments by May 24, 2010. Two public meetings (afternoon and evening sessions) were held in Bethesda, Maryland on April 13, 2010, with the option for members of the public to connect remotely via teleconference, webconference, or both technologies. At the request of stakeholders, the deadline for submitting public comments on the proposed changes to the guidance document was extended from May 24, 2010, to August 9, 2010, and three additional public meetings were scheduled. Those meetings were held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on June 9, 2010; Wilmington, Delaware on July 19, 2010; and Tampa, Florida on July 21, 2010. The proposed changes to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Supplement 3 affect all commercial nuclear power plant licensees and the communities that surround those plants, and these additional meeting locations were selected to try to maximize participation by a variety of individuals and communities. As with the April 13, 2010 meetings, the NRC made available to the public the option to connect to these meetings remotely via teleconference, webconference, or both.

The New York State Office of Emergency Management arranged for a webconference connection between the spring 2010 New York Power Pool meeting and the afternoon public meeting held on April 13, 2010. A representative from the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management and a consultant to Westchester County both attended that Power Pool meeting. We also appreciate their participation in the public meeting by webconference. Additionally, we received written comments on the proposed guidance from the New York State Department of Health.

-2-

I believe that implementation of this revised guidance can enhance the planning of protective actions in event of a serious plant emergency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko