



July 12, 2023

Shawn G. Talmadge
State Coordinator
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
9711 Farrar Court
Richmond, VA 23236

Dear Mr. Talmadge:

This letter is in response to your letter dated July 5, 2023, regarding Virginia's 2022 Annual Letter of Certification (ALC) submission.

FEMA Region 3 recognizes and appreciates the efforts you and your staff have undertaken to correct the "Nuclear Safety" section of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's (VDEM's) website, including the removal of links with outdated information pending update of those linked webpages. We also applaud VDEM's continued coordination with Dominion Energy (DE) to ensure that outdated information contained in DE's online North Anna Power Station (NAPS) and Surry Power Station (SPS) Emergency Preparedness Guides is corrected as expeditiously as possible.

Concerning the open Plan Issue (Plan Issue #41-22-1.4-P-01) assessed to the VDEM State Emergency Operations Center during the 2022 NAPS biennial exercise, we have reviewed VDEM's updates to the Commonwealth of Virginia Radiological Emergency Response Plan (COVRERP). We agree that the plan updates coupled with enhanced training for state officials responsible for the Protective Action Recommendation (PAR)/Protective Action Decision (PAD) processes mark progress and improvement in the timeliness and efficiency of decision-making during a rapidly escalating severe accident scenario. My staff also had the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and execution of the updated plans during the SPS biennial exercise held on July 18, 2023, and observed a significant improvement in the time it took to make a PAD and alert the public. We recognize the legal, political, and procedural challenges surrounding this issue and, though VDEM has yet to implement a system of predetermined PADs, FEMA Region 3 is confident that the changes made to the COVRERP thus far are adequate to ensure that PADs can be made and implemented in a timely manner.

Please consider the Plan Issue as corrected and closed. Per the 2019 FEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Manual, please ensure that VDEM reports the actions taken to correct the Plan Issue as part of the ALC submission for calendar year 2023.

My staff and I appreciate the hard work and dedication put forth by the VDEM team in resolving this matter.

Please contact Tom Scardino, the Technological Hazards Branch Chief and Regional Assistance Committee Chair, at 202-374-2449 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lilian Hutchinson
Federal Preparedness Coordinator
Director, National Preparedness Division