

One Independence Mall
615 Chestnut Street, 6th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404



FEMA

March 27, 2024

Mr. Russell J. Strickland
Secretary
Maryland Department of Emergency Management
5401 Rue Saint Lo Dr.
Reisterstown, MD 21136

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We have reviewed your Annual Letter of Certification (ALC) received January 30, 2024, with attached documents against the evaluation criteria contained in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program Manual Part IV, L, dated December 2019. We also received supplemental email information from your staff on March 6, 2024, and held a meeting with your staff on March 15, 2024.

Our review of your annual certification submission indicates that appropriate activities were accomplished during calendar year 2023 and are in compliance with the periodic requirements contained in the REP Program Manual in the following areas:

- Update of Plans/Procedures and Letters of Agreement
- Responsibility for the Planning Effort
- Public Information and Education
- 24-Hour Staffing
- Emergency Facilities and Equipment
- Alert and Notification

Our review also indicates that the below activity was not accomplished in accordance with periodic requirements contained in the REP Program Manual during calendar year 2023.

- Radiological Emergency Response Training
- Drills

In the ALC submission, Dorchester County indicated that they did not participate in any training in 2023 and subsequent to follow-up discussions with your staff, this office has not received evidence that any training was conducted for Dorchester County staff with roles in the emergency plan. In accordance with NUREG0654 FEMA REP-1, Rev 2, Evaluation Criterion O.1: *Each organization ensures the training of emergency responders and other appropriate individuals with an operational role described in the emergency plan. Initial training and at least annual retraining are provided.*

The ALC, and supplemental information, does not indicate that the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center completed their required annual Medical Services drill. Our records indicate that the last Medical Services drill at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center was completed in May 2022. In accordance with the NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 2, Evaluation Criterion N.4.b: *Medical services drills are conducted annually at each medical facility designated in the emergency plan.*

The information provided, except where noted above, assures that the requisite activities were completed during 2023 to protect the public in the event of a radiological emergency affecting the citizens of the State of Maryland. Please provide a written response to this letter by April 30, 2024, indicating when the periodic requirements for training and drills identified above have been completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Scardino at (215) 931-5546.

Sincerely,

Lilian Hutchinson
Federal Preparedness Coordinator
Director, National Preparedness Division
FEMA Region 3