Statement of Secretary Lewis D. Schiliro, J.D.

Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Submitted for the Record

Joint Hearing on "Review of the Nuclear Emergency in Japan and Implications for the U.S."

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

April 12, 2011

INTRODUCTION

Good Afternoon, Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the Subcommittees. I am Lewis D. Schiliro, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security. On behalf of Governor Jack A. Markell, I am honored to be here today to address the important issue of homeland security as it relates to radiological emergency plans and preparedness. I would like to thank you for your attention and focus on this most important topic.

In the days and weeks that have followed the nuclear energy crisis in Japan, many citizens have raised concerns regarding radiological emergency preparedness in the U.S. In Delaware, citizen concerns about the safety of nuclear energy facilities and the State's ability to handle a radiological emergency were directed to our Department. Our Department is comprised of several public safety divisions including the Delaware State Police (DSP), Capitol Police and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). While our divisions often work together during a public safety emergency, DEMA is primarily responsible for the State's radiological emergency plan (REP) and preparedness activities. I would like to open my statement today with information on the nuclear energy utility located just off the State's shore

and our State's Radiological Emergency Plan. I will then share some insight into our experiences and relationship with the Utility.

NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DELAWARE

Our State's location along the East Coast puts it with in 50-miles of four nuclear generating stations. They are Limerick Nuclear Generating Station and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, both in Pennsylvania; Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Generating Station in Maryland; and Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station in New Jersey. Of these four stations, Salem/Hope Creek, a 740-acre site operated by PSEG Nuclear, is the closest, located just 2.5 miles from the Delaware shoreline. Together, the plants comprise the second largest nuclear generating facility in the U.S and generate enough electricity for three million homes each day. According to the 2010 Census, there are approximately 41,000 people in Delaware who currently live within a 10-mile radius of the Utility. This area is more commonly known the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). It should be noted that within the last 10 years, Delaware's population in the EPZ increased by over 17,000 citizens according to the recent census study. This increase necessitates a mandatory evaluation of our evacuation routes and times.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PLAN, EXERCISES AND NOTIFICATIOB

The close proximity of Salem/Hope Creek makes it the most potential threat to our State and as such DEMA's Radiological Staff continues to work closely with PSEG Nuclear and New Jersey State Emergency Management officials to maintain and update the State's radiological emergency plan. This comprehensive plan, approved by FEMA, is DEMA's roadmap to provide command, coordination and support for any potential nuclear power plant incident impacting our State. As required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and FEMA, within a six-year cycle DEMA conducts three (3) plume exercises which test the State's emergency response capabilities within the EPZ and one (1) ingestion exercise which test the State's readiness to address needs within a 50-mile radius of the Utility. Historically, Delaware's federally graded exercises have received high marks from FEMA. These federally graded exercises are quite thorough and exhaustive in that they test each and every State emergency response resource that could potentially have a role in a radiological emergency incident. They involve our first responders; evacuation plans; reception centers which are registration and decontamination sites

for the public; traffic access controls; shelters; schools; hospitals; and emergency worker decontamination centers. In addition, DEMA conducts quarterly radiological drills with PSEG and New Jersey that specifically focus on the EPZ emergency plans and responder resources. In 2010, 821 people received training specific to the State's REP Plan and Emergency Worker Equipment.

A. Partnerships with Multiple Governmental and Private Agencies

Over the years, DEMA has successfully forged partnerships with multiple federal, state, county and local agencies to support our emergency response plans. DEMA currently maintains 22 Memorandums of Understanding with various agencies and organizations for resources and assistance. These agencies bring resources that would not otherwise be readily available to DEMA. For example, unlike other states, our Delaware National Guard is an integral part of our emergency plan. It provides support for field monitoring and air sampling as well as staffing for two reception centers and an Emergency Worker Decontamination Center. In 2010, Delaware participated in drills and exercises that involved 1,070 staff from private and governmental agencies.

B. Emergency Notification and Activation of Plan

DEMA has established a 24-hour contact through Delaware State Police (DSP) Communications for Salem/Hope Creek notifications. Within 15 minutes of a radiological emergency, PSEG shall send an alert to DEMA via DSP Communications. This alert triggers the activation of the State's Emergency Operations Center and will start the notification process to our emergency support resources including the State Division of Public Health, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), National Guard and Department of Agriculture as well federal resources that include FEMA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture and NRC.

C. Monitoring Sites

While notification of a radiological incident shall come from PSEG, DEMA also has seven (7) stand-along monitoring sites within the EPZ. These units provide readings 24-hours a day and are equipped with battery powered back-ups. These units are also programmed to send

an alert to DSP Communications for the purpose of initiating the notification procedure. An alert from any of the stand alone units would necessitate a call to PSEG to determine and confirm if there had been an incident of concern. If the alarm was not triggered by a PSEG release, DEMA would contact DNREC to investigate and determine the source and extent of the incident.

One additional stationary monitoring unit is located in Dover. This unit is managed and monitored by the USEPA through its RADNET program.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

On a nearly continual basis, DEMA participates in various outreach programs throughout the State. Emergency preparedness information provided to the general public covers public notification, evacuations, sheltering and distribution of potassium iodide. The public also receives information via the PSEG Nuclear Informational Calendar. It offers detailed planning guidance for residents living within the EPZ. DEMA also makes direct contact with civic associations, community groups, schools and businesses located in the EPZ to provide plans and training.

A. Potassium Iodide Distribution

For the past 10 years, Delaware has offered a potassium iodide public distribution program. The NRC has provided the recommended dosage of potassium iodide to all Delaware residents within 10-miles of the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations. In determining the amount of potassium iodide Delaware requests, the anticipated growth of the population within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone was taken into consideration, to ensure all persons living within the EPZ are issued the appropriate dosage. Besides the public distribution, additional supplies in caches are maintained at the Registration sites for distribution to the public upon arrival, if warranted. Each year in the fall, DEMA and the Division of Public Health work together to host several potassium iodide public distribution events. In response to recent citizen requests, a potassium iodide distribution event was held last week.

EXPERIENCE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH PSEG NUCLEAR OFFICIALS

The Department and DEMA have a positive working relationship with PSEG Nuclear officials and have found them to be quite responsive to our needs and concerns. PSEG provides approximately $1.4 million each year to fund the State's radiological emergency preparedness program and activities. This is the State's only source of funding for its radiological program.

PSEG Nuclear has invited Department leaders and DEMA staff to the Salem/Hope Creek Generating Stations on several occasions for plant tours. More importantly, during the quarterly drills, several DEMA radiological staff and public information officers travel to Salem/Hope Creek Generating Station to work as a team with PSEG staff and New Jersey officials. This arrangement has allowed our staff to become very familiar with not only the emergency plans and procedures but with the PSEG facility and its staff. In addition, PSEG hosts annual trainings on utility emergency plans and procedures. Each year, PSEG officials partner with DEMA to host an awards luncheon for elementary school students who submit artwork for its radiological emergency information calendar that is distributed to residents within the Delaware portion of the EPZ. Likewise, a similar activity is sponsored by New Jersey & PSEG for the New Jersey portion of the EPZ

CLOSING

At this time, the Department does not have any specific concerns regarding the Salem/Hope Creek Generating Stations or the other nearby nuclear energy facilities. I am confident that DEMA and its supporting partners are prepared to handle a radiological incident within our State.