



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

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TO: All District Three Constituents
FROM: Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

DATE: July 15, 2022

NextEra Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant – Siren/False Alarm Tuesday, July 12, 2022 - Update on Meeting with NextEra Officials

On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at approximately 10:51 a.m. the NextEra Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant (SNPP) initiated a nine-siren test alarm along the coast of District Three which announced: *“Attention. Attention. There is a problem at Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. The beaches are closed. Leave the beach area at once and turn on your radio for more information”*.

At 11:47 a.m., New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM) issued an emergency response (text message) – *“NH HSEM has been notified by Seabrook Nuclear Power Station that an inadvertent siren activation happened earlier today, July 12, 2022, at the plant. There is no emergency at the plant and no danger to the public. Further information will be released as it becomes available”*. I was in the Executive Council meeting in Hookset when I received the text message. Minutes later I was assured by the Governor and Commissioner of Public Safety – following confirmation from NH HSEM - that there was not a radiological emergency at SNPP.

I immediately reached out to local officials, leadership in the impacted communities and media/radio. I was troubled by the lack of a timely response by SNPP, the lag in real time notification to the public during the 70+ minutes from siren activation to confirmation that the event was an inadvertent/false alarm, to lack of communication to media newsrooms (I contacted one of the state’s largest media outlets and alerted them of the false alarm. They were not aware of the situation). **The unconscionable delay in responding to the false alarm created confusion, chaos, fear and undue stress throughout the District and State – particularly those along the Coast.**

On Thursday, July 14, 2022, I met with leadership at SNPP and a Town Manager directly impacted by the inadvertent/false alarm. For close to two hours, I met with Brian Booth (Site VP at SNPP), David Currier (Emergency Planning Director at SNPP), Matt Levander (Regulatory Affairs Manager at SNPP) to discuss constituent concerns, the gross mishandling of the inadvertent nine-siren alarm triggering, lack of communication by SNPP (no updates regarding the incident were on the SNPP website) and what systems/corrective action plans would be implemented to prevent this from happening again. Please note the following:

- **An investigation has been initiated and will take approximately 1-2 weeks.**
- **The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be involved. The incident was posted on the NRC website at 1:22 p.m. on July 12, 2022 – “At 1051EDT on July 12, 2022, Seabrook Station received report of an inadvertent siren activation. Local authorities have been contacted to apprise them of inadvertent activation of sirens. No press release is planned at this time. The event is being reported pursuant to 10 CFR 50.72. NRC Resident Inspector has been notified”**.

- **Pending the results of the formal investigation SNPP officials shared the following information:**
 - Inadvertent test siren alarm was triggered by a Siren Technician at the SNPP facility.
 - “Silent testing” of the siren alarm system is conducted every two weeks in accordance with NRC regulations.
 - In the event of audible testing of the siren alarm system, advance notification is provided to the public.
 - Siren Technician activated the PA key on the Siren Control Panel – which is located one row directly above the “silent test” key.
 - Once the PA key was initiated the system was locked and prevented the technician from stopping the announcement.
 - The siren/alarm technology in use at SNPP – and countless other NPP throughout the county – is approximately 50 years old – **This is completely unacceptable.**
 - Investments in siren technology system **MUST** and will be made at SNPP. Approval from the NRC is required to make necessary improvements.
 - SNPP acknowledged the need to upgrade the system to IPAWS - Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (AMBER alert) with the ability to geo fence impacted communities.
 - The ability for the State of New Hampshire to launch IPAWS is available.
 - SNPP will conduct future silent tests once the investigation is completed, and a corrective action plan is in effect.

I have been in daily/close communication with New Hampshire Commissioner of Public Safety Robert Quinn and HSEM. I will keep District Three constituents updated as the investigation continues. The New Hampshire State Emergency Operations Center – Radiological Emergency Response for Nuclear Facilities Incident Annex guidance document will be posted on my Executive Council website page today.

Please call me with any questions or concerns regarding Tuesday’s inadvertent test siren alarm at SNPP.