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## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE NEWS**

### **An Update To The On-going Revision to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1**

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Development of draft Revision 2 of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 continued during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of calendar year 2014 in preparation for the formal public comment period, which is scheduled to start in October 2014. A preliminary draft of Section I was developed and changes to the evaluation criteria in Section II were completed after considering feedback from the stakeholder engagement sessions held in October 2013. Prior to holding another stakeholder engagement session, the document was provided to NRC and FEMA staff for comment in April 2014. During May 2014, the lead NRC-FEMA writing team made further changes to Sections I and II based on staff input.

The revised draft document

was made publicly available in early June and a follow-up stakeholder engagement session was held on June 25, 2014. Stakeholders provided feedback on Section I and reviewed the changes made to the evaluation criteria in Section II since last fall.

In parallel with the revision of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, the NRC is developing a new emergency preparedness (EP) guidance document (NUREG) that will amplify information regarding overall EP program capabilities specified in the evaluation criteria applicable to nuclear power plant licensees and applicants. The information will include the level of



detail that licensee/applicant emergency plans should contain to fully address the evaluation criteria and that will allow NRC staff to determine whether the evaluation criteria are met. Additional information regarding various means by which evaluation criteria may be addressed, such as examples of acceptable methods and other EP-related topics, like EP for decommissioning sites and protective action strategies, will also be provided in the new EP guidance document. The current plan is for the new EP guidance document to be publicly available for viewing (but not for commenting) during the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1. A separate formal public comment period for the NUREG will be scheduled after the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 ends.

### **Southern Exposure 2015: A Full Federal Participation Exercise**

Significant planning has begun on next year's full Federal participation graded exercise. This exercise will integrate organizations at all levels of government and demonstrate the "Whole Community" ability to coordinate and conduct response and recovery activities in response to a nuclear power plant emergency. Federal sponsors include DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), FEMA Technological Hazards Division and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The titled exercise, "Southern Exposure", will take place at the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Generating Plant in Hartsville, South Carolina. The exercise is scheduled for the week of July 20, 2015.



## Update on Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants

Four licensees have notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of their intent to permanently cease operations and move forward with decommissioning. The four plants are: Kewaunee Power Station; Crystal River Unit 3; San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 & 3, and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

On January 10, 2014, a draft Interim Staff Guidance (ISG), entitled “Emergency Planning Exemption Requests For Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants,” was released for public comment. The ISG is being developed to assist NRC staff to ensure the consistent review of future EP exemption requests and defueled licensee emergency plans. The NRC held a public meeting on March 6, 2014 in order to

facilitate the collection of comments on the draft ISG. Presently, the NRC is evaluating the disposition of public comments and incorporating lessons-learned from the staff’s review of EP exemption requests currently under technical review.

Two additional public meetings were held by NRC staff on April 3 and May 22, 2014, with industry members of the Nuclear Energy Institute’s (NEI) Emergency Preparedness Decommissioning Working Group. The purpose of these public meetings was to discuss generic issues related to proposed changes to a licensee’s emergency plan prior to Commission approval of a formal exemption request and to understand generic emergency plan-related decommissioning transition issues.

## NRC Headquarters Operations Center Flood Damage and Recovery

On January 7, 2014, the NRC Headquarters Operations Center experienced a significant flood when a sprinkler system failed during a weather related event. Water entered from a ventilation duct from the lobby level and proceeded to saturate the ceilings, floors, walls, furniture, information technology (IT) equipment, and other sensitive electronics located within the Headquarters Operations Center. Situational awareness, threat assessment, and incident response functional capabilities were immediately transferred to the designated Continuity of Operations Program (COOP) location. Soon thereafter, all func-

tionality was returned to Headquarters using alternative facilities within the White Flint North campus.

NRC staff worked closely with the General Services Administration and the landlord to ensure that remediation of the flood damage was performed such that the facility was returned to as close to pre-flood condition as possible. NRC staff was able to restore, reinstall and retest all affected IT equipment and return the Headquarters Operations Center to service. Reconstruction of the physical space was completed on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, and the facility was reoccupied on Monday, February 24, 2014. NRC never lost its ability to respond to events and maintained communications capability throughout the event by enacting its COOP plan and employing additional contingencies.

