

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
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& Incident Response
Division of Preparedness
& Response

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Emergency Preparedness Rulemaking Initiative Enters Final Stages

Progress continues as the NRC staff nears the end of a multi-year rulemaking effort.

The emergency preparedness (EP) rulemaking initiative began in 2005 with a top-to-bottom review of the NRC's EP Program and regulations. The proposed rule and draft guidance documents were published for public comment on May 18, 2009.

During the 150-day public comment period that followed, the NRC and FEMA received hundreds of comments. NRC and FEMA staffs have developed proposed comment responses for each organization's comments. A joint NRC-FEMA working group was formed to

resolve comments involving both onsite and offsite EP issues, such as changing the length of exercise planning cycles and clarifying the requirements for licensee coordination with offsite response organizations.

Several milestones remain before the publication of the final rule. NRC staff is currently completing the draft final rule package. The draft final rule package and associated NRC guidance documents will undergo an internal review.

Next, the draft final rule package and guidance documents will be sent to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) for review. The

ACRS is independent of the NRC staff and reports directly to the Commission.

Following ACRS review, the EP final rule package will be submitted to the Commission in February 2011 to maintain alignment with the FEMA review process for offsite guidance documents associated with the EP rulemaking.

NRC and FEMA staff have begun developing an integrated transition and implementation plan for the EP final rule and associated guidance. The draft final rule language and NRC guidance documents will be made publicly available in October 2010.



Comment Period Closes for Draft Supplement 3 to NUREG/0654-FEMA-REP-1

The NRC is revising guidance for licensee protective action recommendations during nuclear plant accidents. The staff published draft NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Supplement 3, "Guidance for Protective Action Recommendations for General Emergencies" for comment on March 8, 2010. The comment period was extended through August 9 to allow sufficient time for state and local emergency preparedness professionals and members of the public to review draft Supplement 3 and provide meaningful comments.

The staff conducted a series of public

meetings in coordination with FEMA to clarify the language in the draft document and answer questions from stakeholders. The meetings were held on the following dates:

- April 13, 2010 in Rockville, MD
- June 9, 2010 in La Crosse, WI
- July 19, 2010 in Wilmington, DE
- July 21, 2010 in Tampa, FL.

The public meetings were supported by teleconferencing and webconferencing to allow broader participation from those who could not attend in person.

By the end of the comment period, stakeholders had submitted over 200 comments via www.regulations.gov. These comments will be resolved in coordination with FEMA. It is expected that the draft Supplement 3 will be published for use in 2011.

Materials from the final public meeting, including presentations and handouts, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), Accession Number MLI02070408. Draft Supplement 3 can be found in ADAMS under Accession Number MLI00150268.

Division of Preparedness and Response Announces Management Changes

Over the summer, the Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) underwent several changes in its management positions.

In July, Melvyn Leach retired as Director, DPR after nearly twenty years of public service.

Brian McDermott, formerly Deputy Director for Incident Response, DPR, was selected as the Director of DPR.



Brian McDermott



Scott Morris

Scott Morris, formerly Deputy Director for Reactor Security, Division of Security Policy, succeeded Mr. McDermott as Deputy Director for Incident Response.

Christopher Miller remains in his position as Deputy Director for Emergency Preparedness.

Emergency Response Data System Upgrades

As of August 2010, all NRC power reactor licensees have committed to upgrade their existing telephone modem-based Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) connections to new Virtual Private Network-based systems before the end of calendar year 2011.

Approximately 20% of the 104 reactor facilities have either completed or are well on the way to completing the ERDS upgrades. In order to facilitate efficient planning and scheduling, the NRC is requesting the licensees of the remaining 80+ facilities to commit to a specific date of when they intend to install the new system. The NRC technical resources necessary to facilitate the site installations (and associated testing) need to be "level-loaded" as best as possible over the next 16 months.

Licensees are strongly encouraged to contact the ERDS support desk as soon as possible to schedule the upgrade.

ERDS Support Desk

(301) 415-0467

or

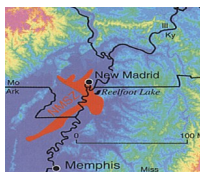
ERDS.resource@nrc.gov

National Level Exercise 2011 participation

The Federal Government is actively planning National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE-11), currently scheduled for May 16-20, 2011.

This exercise will be more complex than typical NRC exercises as it will involve numerous licensees (power and non-power reactors, fuel cycle facilities, and materials) and "round-the-clock" real-time play over a 4-day period.

The NLE-11 scenario is a large-scale natural disaster stemming from a major earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone extending from northeastern Arkansas to Missouri. In the scenario, earthquake effects will be felt throughout a large section of the middle of the United States. The NRC requested participation from interested licensees in the affected region. Many have agreed to support the activity. This exercise is designed to challenge Federal, State and local authorities, as well as the private sector, in effectively implementing the National Response Framework and its associated implementing mechanisms.



Meeting Discusses Small Modular Reactors

On July 28, EP staff joined the Office of New Reactors staff in a Category 2 Public meeting on small modular reactors (SMRs).

Proposed SMR designs would operate at power levels lower than the current generation of operating reactors. These designs could be used for generating electricity in isolated areas or producing high-temperature process heat for industrial purposes. Some proposed designs are light water reactors (LWRs), like the current fleet of operating power reactors in the U.S. Other proposed designs are gas-cooled or liquid metal-cooled reactors.

The meeting was held to discuss key licensing issues regarding SMRs. Along with emergency preparedness, the topics discussed included human factors and previous licensing experience.

The EP presentation discussed the following topics:

- SMR vs. LWR Comparisons
- Generic implication of SMRs on EP
- Status of RIS-2010-03 Questions
- Future Workshops on SMR EP
- Stakeholder Participation

The EP slides from the meeting are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), Accession Number ML102080277. For more information on SMRs, visit <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/advanced.html>.



Next Generation Nuclear Plant

Upcoming Events of Interest to the EP Community

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) 2010 Annual Conference

October 17-21, 2010

Little Rock, Arkansas

<http://www.nemaweb.org/?3346>

International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) 58th Annual Conference

October 29 - November 4, 2010

San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>

Join us at the NRC Booth at the IAEM Conference!

We look forward to seeing you there.