

Comments or Questions?

Contact the NSIR/
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Emergency Preparedness Rulemaking Moves Forward

NRC's Offices of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) and Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) are moving forward in the rulemaking process to develop new guidance and regulations for emergency preparedness.

This rulemaking covers eleven high priority topics in emergency preparedness. Topics were identified by the staff in SECY-06-0200 as high priority for initial rulemaking. Other topics may be addressed by rulemaking or guidance at a later date.

Preliminary draft rule language is available online at www.regulations.gov – Docket number: NRC-2008-0122. The staff held a public meeting on March 5, 2008 to discuss the preliminary draft rule language with stakeholders. The period for public comment on this pre-

liminary language closed on July 1, 2008.

On July 8, 2008, following closure of the public comment period, staff held a public meeting to discuss comments received on the draft preliminary language. Representatives from local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, and industry were invited to participate and share perspectives on the draft rule language. Comments received at both the July 8 and previous March 5, 2008 meetings will inform the proposed rule.

Proposed rule language and draft guidance are expected to be published for comment in the Federal Register in February 2009. The staff intends to hold multiple public meetings throughout the spring and summer of 2009. All

of this will lead to publication of a final rule and final guidance in March 2010.

Sign up on www.regulations.gov, to receive notifications any time changes are made to a docket in which you are interested. Add your information to be notified of changes and updates to the Emergency Preparedness rulemaking.

Important Milestones Ahead:

- Proposed Rule in Federal Register—February 2009
- Draft Guidance Published—February 2009
- Technical Basis NUREG—February 2009
- Public Meetings—Spring 2009
- Publication of Final Rule and Final Guidance—March 2010

State Representatives Spend the Day at NRC HQ Operations Center

Representatives from Kentucky and Pennsylvania spent the day at the NRC Headquarters Operations Center on July 22, 2008. to observe the NRC participation in the North Anna biennial graded exercise.

The representatives from Kentucky and Pennsylvania were on hand to observe Operations Center activities in preparation for upcoming drills in their states in

the next few months. The representatives were able to see all aspects of the NRC response at Headquarters.

States are invited to observe exercises at Headquarters in preparation for upcoming drills in their states. This experience is beneficial to both the states and the NRC as it opens lines of communication with respect to what each party needs in the time of a

response. States with upcoming exercises will be contacted to observe Headquarters participation prior to their own exercise.

Others who are interested in observing an exercise at Headquarters, should contact us! We would be delighted to accommodate you as space allows.

Commission Holds Meeting with FEMA, State, and Local Representatives

On August 12, 2008, the Commission held a meeting with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the states of California, Illinois, and Ohio, the city of Dana Point, CA, and Lake County, OH. The Commissioners heard presentations from the representatives highlighting experiences with the Hostile-Action Based (HAB) Drills initiative.

HAB drills are intended to explore, from an emergency preparedness perspective, licensee response to assess and mitigate a terrorist-caused event in coordination with offsite responders. Scenarios exercised in HAB drills may involve air, ground, or waterborne attacks. Unlike force-on-force exercises, HAB drills are not limited to the design basis scenarios and do not demonstrate any kind of tactical response capabilities or a significant security or law enforcement response. HAB drills specifically focus

on demonstrating the unique challenges that a hostile action attack could pose on existing emergency preparedness programs.

The HAB drill initiative has required significant resources from the NRC, FEMA, State and local governments, and the nuclear industry. The Commission meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to report their perspectives on HAB drills and emergency preparedness to the Commission.

FEMA highlighted the progress that has been made in improving the relationship between FEMA and the NRC as a result of the HAB drills. FEMA is responsible for oversight of offsite emergency preparedness, and as such, FEMA is involved in developing guidance documents to accompany the NRC's upcoming rulemaking on emergency preparedness.

State and local representatives were generally positive about the HAB drills. One very beneficial outcome has been enhanced relationships and communications within the emergency response communities around nuclear plants. The State and local representatives spoke to the need to decrease the predictability of drills and the need to make HAB drills part of the drill program that FEMA grades every two years.

Overall, the meeting was successful in discussing issues related to emergency preparedness with the Commission. Issues highlighted in the meeting will be considered as emergency preparedness rulemaking and guidance development move forward.

For a transcript and web recording of the meeting, please visit: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/2008/>

Did you know?

September is National Preparedness Month. Established by the Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Month encourages all of us to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies. This year, the focus is on the four steps of preparedness: get a kit, make a plan, be informed, and get involved.

Hostile-Action Based Drills Come to the DC Area

Scanners buzzed with activity as state and local agencies and licensee employees joined together on July 15, 2008 for a Hostile Action-Based (HAB) Drill at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. The exercise was part of a series of drills being conducted across the country to address on and offsite response to a hostile-action attack on a nuclear power plant.

Calvert's close proximity to the DC Metro area and the drill's position in the mid-cycle of the HAB exercise schedule war-

ranted the involvement of many senior NRC and FEMA officials. Drill observers included NRC Commissioner Jaczko, FEMA Administrator Paulison, and other high-level NRC and FEMA management.



Currently, the drills are not formally evaluated; instead, they are conducted to provide lessons learned for future rule-making and guidance. All sites will have an opportunity to have an unevaluated drill, and the NRC and FEMA will go forward with the rule-making process using the experience gained from the HAB drills. Insights gained from these drills will be essential as NRC and FEMA coordinate to produce exercise-related regulations and guidance.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the EP Community

21st Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC)

-March 8-12, 2009

-Rockville, MD

<http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/>

19th Annual National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference (NREP)

-April 20-23, 2009

-Norfolk, VA

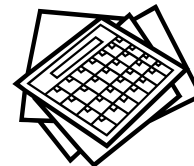
<http://www.nationalrep.org/>

NEI Emergency Preparedness and Information Forum

-June 15-16, 2009

-Bonita Springs, FL

http://nei.org/newsandevents/conferencesandmeetings/future_conferences/



Do you have an event coming up for us to highlight?

For consideration, send the details to: emergencypreparedness.resource@nrc.gov