

September 12, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Those on the Attached List

FROM: Cynthia A. Carpenter, Acting Director */Robert Lewis RA for/*
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: DRAFT STANDARD PROTOCOL FOR STATE
COMMUNICATIONS ON UNINTENDED RELEASES
OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

The enclosed Draft Standard Protocol for State Communications on Unintended Releases of Radioactive Material from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed facilities is provided for review and comment within 2 weeks of the date of this memorandum. The development of a standard protocol for engaging States on unintended releases of radioactive material is an outgrowth of a recommendation in the June 2010, NRC staff Groundwater Task Force Report (Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML101680435). The standard protocol development was also noted in the staff's February 9, 2011, memorandum to the Commission on initiatives for improved communication of groundwater incidents (ADAMS Accession Number ML110050252).

The Draft Standard Protocol was developed in conjunction with input from the Regional State Liaison and Agreements Officers (RSLOs and RSAOs), who are NRC's day-to-day contacts for communications with States about NRC regulatory issues. The Draft Standard Protocol incorporates lessons learned from groundwater communications incidents and stakeholder feedback provided during an October 4, 2010, workshop (ADAMS Accession Number ML102861795) and a February 24, 2011 briefing on groundwater.

The Draft Standard Protocol has also been provided in parallel to Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers, State Radiation Control Program Directors, and the Communications Council for review and comment. In addition, the Draft Protocol is being shared with the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (NARR), which is a coalition of representatives of State and local public health preparedness organizations, State public health laboratories, State and territorial epidemiologists, State and local radiation control programs, and disaster medicine and emergency preparedness organizations.

The NRC staff believes that through our long standing relationship, States can help facilitate the timely dissemination of information involving unintended releases of radioactive material to not only Governors and other State and local agencies, but also to the public health community. These State contacts and organizations can help to further disseminate such information in a consistent and timely manner to the general public.

CONTACT: Rosetta Virgilio, FSME/DILR
301-415-2367

The Draft Standard Protocol serves as guidance to NRC staff and does not involve a change in Commission policy. The protocol supplements NRC staff's long standing communications practice and policy (57 FR 6462, February 25, 1992), as outlined in Management Directive 5.2, "Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Production or Utilization Facilities," dated October 29, 2010, and FSME Procedure SL-100, "Regional State Liaison Officers (RSLOs)," dated July 14, 2010. These documents can be viewed at <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1022/ML102220529.pdf> and <http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/procedures/sl100.pdf>, respectively.

Enclosure:

Draft Standard Protocol for State
and Tribal Outreach on Unintended
Release of Radioactive Material

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