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Planning the Revision of NUREG-0654 / FEMA-REP-1

Beginning this summer, the NRC and FEMA will initiate the process of revising NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP-1, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in support of Nuclear Power Plants." Commonly known as "NUREG-0654" to offsite response organizations who participate in the radiological emergency response programs for commercial nuclear power plants, this document offers a basis for NRC Licensees, State, local and tribal governments to develop radiological emergency

plans. The information contained in NUREG-0654 is used by reviewers in determining the adequacy of State, local, tribal and nuclear power plant licensee emergency plans and preparedness. It has served as the baseline for radiological planning since it was first published in October 1980. While still a sound baseline, much has changed in emergency management since then, so an update is needed.

This is expected to be a multi-year initiative. A project charter has been drafted and the FEMA-NRC project team members are being identified. There will be multiple opportunities for stakeholder input during the entire revision process.

The current proposed scope does not envision a total rewrite of the existing document, but rather will serve as an update. Examples of some of the topics being considered in the proposed scope include: integration of the NRC interim staff guidance (NSIR/DPR-ISG-01) and updated FEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program manual; consolidation of supplementary guidance documents; and new reactor licensing EP elements.

Two kickoff meetings will be held later this summer to begin gathering stakeholder input on the proposed scope of changes. Stay tuned for the exact details on those upcoming public meetings.



Celebrating 10 Years: Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

This year, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) celebrates its 10 year anniversary. NSIR was chartered in April 2002 as a new NRC office in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, which fundamentally changed the concept of security and response associated with regulatory requirements for nuclear power plants.

The NRC saw the need to create a separate office that would focus on a mission to prevent nuclear security incidents and prepare for and respond to events. Work then began to identify and implement enhancements to the nuclear facility security and emergency preparedness programs, supported by orders, advisories, and rulemaking. The formation

of NSIR also created an outlet for coordination and communications with many federal agencies.

Now, 10 years later, NSIR is proud to be an integral part of the NRC, focusing on maintaining a valued partnership in homeland security and national emergency preparedness and response.



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Meet Rob Lewis, Division Director for Preparedness and Response



Rob Lewis, Director
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I'd like to use this space to tell you how enthusiastic I am about joining the Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) team. DPR has a strong reputation for regulatory excellence and plays one of the key roles in NRC's efforts to ensure public health and safety – especially during events. I believe this reputation for excellence has been earned by the hardworking staff and leadership team of DPR. Effective emergency preparedness (EP) and incident response (IR) requires extensive and frequent cooperation between NRC, FEMA, and many state and local emergency management organizations, as well as licensee cooperation and compliant programs. Ensuring these partnerships remain strong will be a priority for me. I believe I have a lot to offer through my experience managing NRC programs to oversee materials licensees and work with the 37 Agreement States. I am a

firm believer in modeling the NRC values, which are located at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/values.html>. I commit to all of you that DPR will model these values and take them into account during the course of our daily duties and interactions with you.

Since beginning my work within DPR, I feel that we have seen many successes and challenges. With the approval of the agency's EP regulations, I witnessed public health and safety being well served and I plan to use the EP rule as a model for other future projects, including the revision to NUREG-0654. In addition, I saw the success in our ability to maintain a good relationship with FEMA when working hard to speak with one voice while making joint decisions.

Finally, I believe the agency's Japan event response was a success, showing that we are capable of maintaining a flexible program in the division, making way to appropriately respond to an incident while continuing our day-to-day work.

We have been faced with challenges in

our division this year as well, and one of my biggest focuses is creating an integrated division to make a full connection between EP and IR. I also see that we are challenged with making changes in the division while still in a flat or declining budget environment. The Japan response will have a significant impact on the NRC's budget for all agency priorities and we must be able to effectively adjust to these fiscal constraints. With all of this, I also am challenged with the departure of our experienced staff and losing the history of EP while educating staff members that are new to the field.

I am very excited about the direction our program can take while I am director. In the near future, our focus must be on implementing the EP rule properly. We must continue our effort to share information with our regional counterparts and federal and international family, thereby demonstrating our 'good world citizens' attitude. We must keep our response capabilities strong to show our ability to preserve public health and safety.

New Reactor COL Issuance for Vogtle and Summer Sites

On February 9, 2012, the NRC Commission voted to approve the combined licenses (COLs) for the Vogtle new reactors, making it the first-ever combined licenses to be issued. The NSIR EP staff was especially involved in the process leading up to this significant licensing.

In the fall of 2011, the Commission conducted mandatory hearings on the COLs for two new reactors at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site, located near Waynesboro, Georgia. Similar hearings for two more new reactors at the V.C. Summer site near Jenkinsville, South Carolina, were also conducted. During the Vogtle hearings, the Commission was specifically interested in the proposed common Technical Support Center, emergency action level scheme, and FEMA's review of the offsite plans.



The unique aspect of the emergency planning review and approval for Vogtle Units 3 & 4 is that these new reactors haven't actually been built yet. The NRC's new licensing process in 10 CFR Part 52 addresses this with Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC), which serve as placeholders for the final confirmation of the as-built reactors, including implementation of the emergency planning program. Through the inspection process, NRC will verify that the ITAAC are fully met, including conducting a successful emergency planning exercise by onsite and offsite responders prior to fuel load.

The staff's detailed evaluation of the emergency plans for Vogtle Units 3 & 4 is included as Section 13.3, "Emergency Planning," of the Final Safety Evaluation Report, published August 5, 2011; which is available on www.nrc.gov using ADAMS Accession No. MLI10300015. The transcripts for the Commission and ASLB hearings are also available through www.nrc.gov. The emergency planning review supporting ESP-004 is discussed further in EP&R News, Vol. 2, Issue 1, Summer 2009.

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

For consideration, send the details to: Emergencypreparedness.Resource@nrc.gov