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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE NEWS

Countdown to Southern Exposure 2015

Every year, dozens of NRC managers and staff members at headquarters and the four regions participate in or inspect nuclear power plant or fuel facility exercises. Those exercises are valuable in



providing experience, revealing areas for improvement in our response plans, and making the NRC's overall emergency response program better. State and local responders have an opportunity to participate in licensee exercises, but many federal agencies that would be involved in an actual serious nuclear emergency rarely play.

In July, the NRC, along with the State of South Carolina, Duke

Energy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Department of Energy, are planning a full-scale exercise, called Southern Exposure 15, at the Robinson nuclear plant in South Carolina.

In addition to the NRC, FEMA and DOE, federal agencies participating include the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Labor, the Interior, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Southern Exposure 15 will begin on Tuesday, July 21, with events and activities that will look very much like many of the nuclear plant emergency exercises.

On Wednesday, July 22, federal agencies will join in a broad response to the simulated events at the Robinson nuclear plant. The NRC and the other federal agencies will work closely with state and local officials and Duke Energy's plant operators

and managers to achieve the objectives of the exercise. The objectives include the demonstrated ability of the whole community to coordinate mobilization of assets, personnel, and other means of support for a radiological incident, supporting state and local agencies to obtain situational awareness, determining the extent of impact, and initiating operational coordination.

Update On The Revision To NUREG

After months of hard work and a collaborative effort by the NRC and FEMA, the draft revision 2 of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 is currently available for public comment. You can read the document and submit your comments at www.regulations.gov, docket number FEMA-2012-0026. You can also mail your comments to: Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472-3100. The overall schedule continues to support issuing the final version of Revision 2



by late calendar year 2016 or early 2017.

The initial draft of the new NRC Emergency Preparedness (EP) Handbook, developed as a companion document to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, is publicly available for viewing (but not for formal comment) during the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1. A separate formal public comment period for the NRC EP Handbook will be scheduled after the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 ends.

Nuclear/Radiological Annex Revision

The Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA), published in 2008 as an annex to the National Response Framework, is in the process of being revised by an interagency working group to make the document more operationally focused. The revised NRIA will provide hazard-specific supplemental information to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans. The draft document will be exercised during Southern Exposure-15, and lessons learned from the exercise will be incorporated into the final document.

In conjunction with the revision of the NRIA, the working group is also developing the Nuclear Radiological Incident Task Force, an interagency group that convenes within the National Response Coordination Center at FEMA Headquarters to provide standardized Radiological/Nuclear incident subject matter expertise support.

Small Modular Reactors Policy Paper

On June 2, 2015 NRC staff delivered a policy paper to the Commission for a decision on small modular reactor emergency preparedness. *SECY-15-0077: Options for Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies* can be found in the NRC's document system under the ADAMS accession number ML15054A139. The NRC staff is recommending that the development of rulemaking for small modular reactors should take a consequence approach. Another possibility posed is to use existing regulations to write exemptions as needed, similar to the NRC's current decommissioning license exemption process.

Operating License Issued for New Reactor at FERMI

On May 1, 2015, the NRC issued a combined operating license (COL) for the proposed FERMI Unit 3 near Newport, Michigan. The license authorizes DTE Electric Company to build and operate an Economic Simplified Boiling-Water Reactor (ESBWR). DTE submitted its COL application on Sept. 18, 2008. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards independently reviewed aspects of the application that concern safety, as well as the staff's final safety evaluation report (FSER). The committee provided the results of its review to the Commission on Sept. 22, 2014. The NRC completed its environmental review and issued the final impact statement for the proposed new FERMI reactor in January 2013. The NRC completed and issued the FSER on Nov. 18, 2014. The

Decommissioning Update

EP Exemptions and License Amendments Issued

Work continues by the NRC on the various decommissioning licensing actions. On March 30, 2015, an emergency preparedness exemption (ML15058A906) was granted for the Crystal River Unit 3 (CR-3) site in Florida. On June 4, 2015, an emergency preparedness exemption (ML15082A204) was granted for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in California. Following the issuance of these exemptions, the NRC approved license amendment requests for the site Permanently Defueled Emergency Plan and Emergency Action Level scheme for both CR-3 and SONGS.

Once these exemptions are implemented, State and local governments will utilize all-hazard emergency response plans to implement protective measures for the public if needed. The plant will continue to maintain an onsite emergency plan and response capabilities, including notification of appropriate government officials of an emergency declaration (limited to an Unusual Event or an Alert).

Interim Staff Guidance Publicly Available

On May 20, 2015 the NRC's Interim Staff Guidance for emergency planning exemption requests for decommissioning power plants was published in the Federal Register. NSIR/DPR-ISG-2 is now publicly available in the NRC's document system under the ADAMS accession number ML14106A057.

Decommissioning Rulemaking Effort

In Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) to SECY-14-0118, the Commission directed the staff to proceed with rulemaking on decommissioning with an objective of early 2019 for completion. Processing current and pending applications for decommissioning-related exemptions and amendments will continue during the rulemaking effort. The staff has begun preliminary rulemaking activities including developing lessons learned from licensing actions, consulting with FEMA, identifying resource needs, and developing a detailed schedule for the rulemaking effort. Stakeholder engagement and public involvement will be important elements throughout the rulemaking process. More information on the rulemaking schedule and opportunities for public involvement will be available in future newsletters.

NRC completed the COL review after the agency certified the ESBWR design following a Commission vote in September 2014. The ESBWR is a 1,600-megawatt electric reactor that includes passive safety features to cool down the reactor after an accident without the need for electricity or human intervention.