

Emergency Preparedness Frequently Asked Question (EPFAQ)

EPFAQ Number: 2020-02

Date Accepted for Review: 01/28/2020

Originator: David Young

Organization: NEI

Relevant Guidance: 1. NEI 12-01, "Guideline for Assessing Beyond Design Basis Accident Response Staffing and Communications Capabilities"
2. NEI 12-06, "Diverse and Flexible Coping Strategies (FLEX) Implementation Guide"

Applicable Section(s): Various

Status:

QUESTION OR COMMENT:

Background

In a letter dated March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested information from licensees associated with Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) recommendation 9.3 for emergency preparedness communications; the request was made pursuant to the agency's authority provided in Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.54(f).¹ The letter requested licensees to submit an assessment of their current communications systems and equipment used during a beyond-design-basis natural event resulting in an Extended Loss of AC Power (ELAP) to all on-site units and impeding access to the site. The § 50.54(f) letter cited § 50.47(b)(6) and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix E, section IV.E.9 as the applicable regulations that describe the licensee's emergency plan communications systems requirements. Licensees understood that the communications systems used to meet these regulations were the communications systems that were to be considered in the requested assessment. However, the intent of the communications assessment was to determine what, if any, enhancements would be needed to ensure the continued availability of onsite and offsite communications systems used to support required mitigative response actions during an ELAP.

Question

What is the relationship between the requirements in 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, applicable to emergency plan communications systems, and the enhanced communications capabilities (systems and equipment) installed by licensees to support required mitigative response actions during an ELAP?

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

A communication capability enhancement made by a licensee in response to the § 50.54(f) letter assessment need not meet the design capabilities for a communications system required by 10 CFR part 50, Appendix E, or the testing frequencies described for primary and backup

¹ Refer to NRC letter, "Request for Information Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 50.54(f) Regarding Recommendations 2.1, 2.3, and 9.3, of the Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident;" ADAMS ML12053A340.

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onsite and offsite communications systems. Equipment enhancements made as a result of this assessment were not necessary to meet the requirement to notify offsite response organizations within 15 minutes of an emergency declaration, or to meet the monthly communications testing requirement for State and local governments within the 10-mile emergency planning zone.

NRC RESPONSE:

RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTION(S):

- ☐ INFORMATION ONLY, MAINTAIN EPFAQ
- ☒ UPDATE GUIDANCE DURING NEXT REVISION