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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE NEWS

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## Planning Continues for Southern Exposure 2015 Exercise

On July 21-23, 2015, the State of South Carolina, Duke Energy's H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant, the NRC, FEMA, and DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will sponsor a full-Federal, whole community exercise, entitled "Southern Exposure 2015" (SE-15). The exercise will examine the nation's ability to respond to and recover from a nuclear power plant emergency. Immediate response and long-term recovery needs of state and local communities following a

radiological release will be identified.

Coordinated planning for the exercise is progressing smoothly. On July 29, several federal and state agencies participated in a seminar at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. The seminar provided a discussion of federal response assets that would provide support during a radiological event.

On July 30, approximately 200 exercise coordinators from participating Federal, state, and local agencies met in South Carolina for the Initial Planning Meeting (IPM).

Exercise Working Groups were established to focus on specific aspects of the exercise development, e.g., Scenario Development, Control and Evaluation, Public Affairs/VIP Observer Program, Logistics, etc. Each of the Exercise Working Groups held breakout sessions during the IPM and will continue to meet periodically to develop the exercise.

The Mid-Planning Meeting will be held in South Carolina during the week of December 8, 2014.

## Update On The Revision To NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP-1

Development of draft Revision 2 of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants," continues with additional changes being made based on feedback provided by stakeholders during a follow-up stakeholder engagement session held on June 25, 2014. The document is currently undergoing final review and approval by NRC and FEMA management prior to its scheduled release for formal public comment in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Calendar Year 2014.

The NRC has also completed the initial draft of a new guidance document (NUREG) that will amplify information on overall emergency preparedness (EP) program capabilities specific to evaluation criteria applicable to nuclear power plant licensees and applicants, as well as address other EP-related topics. The document is currently undergoing review by NRC staff and management. A draft of the new EP guidance document will be publicly available for viewing during the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1. A separate formal public comment period for the draft NUREG will be scheduled after the public comment period for NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 ends.

### Upcoming Outreach Events

- Oct 9-12, 2014: National Emergency Management Association's Annual Emergency Management Policy & Leadership Forum (Atlanta, GA)
- Nov 17-19, 2014: International Association of Emergency Manager's Annual Conference (San Antonio, TX)
- January 2015: Tentative NRC Commission Meeting on Emergency Preparedness (Rockville, MD)

## EP Staff Teams With Research To Study Evacuation Time Estimates

The 2011 EP rulemaking required nuclear power plant licensees to develop new evacuation time estimate studies (ETE) using the most recent decennial census. ETEs are used in developing protective action strategies for severe accidents as well as enhancing evacuation plans developed by offsite response organizations (ORO). All licensees submitted updated ETEs in 2012. The NRC guidance for the development of ETEs is contained in NUREG/CR-7002, "Criteria for Development of Evacuation Time Estimate Studies." This NUREG was successful in that it standardized the content of ETEs. Licensees will again update ETEs when the 2020 census becomes available or in the interim based on changes in permanent resident population. The NRC staff began applied research through the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research to examine several aspects of ETE development. This applied research will explore several technical areas of evacuation modelling. The information will be used to enhance NRC guidance and provide for direction of preferred techniques to licensees. Additionally, the research will provide a decision making tool to be considered for ORO use in evacuation planning. Study areas include:

- Impact of manual control of intersections,
- Shadow evacuation,
- Evacuation distance assumptions,
- Sensitivity analysis of selected parameters,

### Exemption vs. Licensing Amendment

The agency's current emergency preparedness (EP) regulations, contained in Section 50.47(b) to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50, apply to both operating and shutdown reactors. However, the NRC's current EP regulations are silent with regard to the fact that once a reactor permanently ceases operation, the consequences of emergency scenarios are reduced. 10 CFR 50.12 (license exemption process) applies to licensees seeking regulatory relief; a licensee would not have to comply with specific regulations if an exemption is granted. Whereas, 10 CFR 50.90 (license amendment process) applies to licensees

- Macro-analysis of the reduction in evacuation times ETEs, and
- Sensitivity analysis of macro versus micro-modeling techniques.

Other topics are expected to enhance staff understanding of the science of ETEs.

The results will be published in a NUREG/CR and support a future revision of NUREG/CR-7002.

### *Decommissioning Update*

**On August 7, 2014 a Commission issued Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) approving NRC staff's recommendations provided in SECY-14-0066, "Request by Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc. for Exemptions from Certain Emergency Planning Requirements." These documents are publicly available in the NRC Agency-wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Nos. [ML14072A257](#) and [ML14219A366](#) respectively. The SRM also provided direction to: "Based on lessons learned from the most recent operating plant closures, the staff should report to the Commission in January 2015 its views on the need for an integrated rulemaking for decommissioning and, as appropriate, provide the potential schedule and resources required for completion."**

seeking to change their license conditions in how they comply with regulations.

The current practice for EP exemptions or amendments, when granted, has not been to relieve the licensee of all EP requirements, but rather to modify the EP plans commensurate with the site-specific risks that are present. The agency will only grant an exemption or amendment if it concludes that no undue risk to public health and safety exists. Both exemptions and amendments are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis, following an established process that includes the staff's assessment of a detailed technical safety evaluation submitted by the licensee.