

Performance Based Emergency Preparedness Oversight Radiological Emergency Response Plan Oversight

Objective

In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the staff initiated a study of performance based evaluation techniques that could be used for offsite response organization Radiological Emergency Response Plans (RERP). This effort also intended to identify how RERP program elements could be integrated with nation-wide FEMA preparedness initiatives. The study of RERP oversight would support efforts to develop an overall performance based regulatory regimen.

Applications

This study determined the potential for a performance based regulatory regimen for RERP. It complements the concept previously developed for onsite EP. State and local emergency response programs have significantly matured since the EP regulations of 1980 were implemented. FEMA has initiated several nation-wide preparedness efforts and the level of capability has greatly advanced. The effectiveness and efficiency of EP oversight may be improved by integrating radiological emergency response programs with the broader FEMA preparedness initiatives.

Approach

The staff retained a knowledgeable consultant to review FEMA evaluation techniques and NRC regulations that apply to RERP. The consultant proposed elements of evaluation that could be performance based and examined FEMA preparedness programs that may duplicate or parallel NRC EP requirements and proposed methods for integration.

Progress

The study and evaluation of a performance based regimen for offsite response organizations has been completed with the conclusion that a performance based system is feasible and could enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of EP oversight. The results of this study will be documented in an upcoming NUREG/CR document. This project also informed the development of SECY-14-0038, "Performance –Based Framework for Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Preparedness Oversight," (ADAMS accession number ML13238A018) which presented the results of a staff study on the potential for a performance-based EP framework. In SRM-14-038 (ML14259A589), the Commission approved the staff's recommendation to continue under the current regulatory framework while remaining vigilant to the possibility of moving to a performance-based framework in the future.