



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION DIVISION OF REACTOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RADIATION PROTECTION BRANCH

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POSITION (EPPOS¹) ON EMERGENCY PLANNING INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

PURPOSE

To provide guidance to the staff concerning emergency planning information provided to the public.

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.47(b)(7), information is to be made available to the public on a periodic basis regarding how they will be notified and what their initial actions should be in an emergency (e.g., listening to a local broadcast station and remaining indoors), that principal contacts with the news media for dissemination of information during an emergency (including the physical location or locations) are established in advance, and that procedures for coordinated dissemination of information to the public are established.

POSITION

Section IV.D.2 of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 states, in part, "Provisions shall be described for yearly dissemination to the public within the plume exposure pathway EPZ of basic emergency planning information such as the methods and times required for public notification and the protective actions planned if an accident occurs, general information as to the nature and effects of radiation, and a listing of local broadcast stations that will be used for dissemination of information during an emergency..."

¹ **The EPPOS Process**

- EPPOS are generated by NRR's EP&HP Branch (PERB) in response to requests for guidance from the Regional Offices or to otherwise address emergent issues.
- After drafting by NRR/PERB, EPPOS are sent to the Regions for comment. After incorporation of comments, the EPPOS are issued in final form and placed in the PDR. The need for concurrence from others outside NRR/PERB, such as the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Enforcement, is considered on a case-by-case basis.
- EPPOS are intended to be "living" documents, being assigned a revision number and a date of issuance. They will be revised from time to time as suggestions for improvement or other comments warrant. Comments may be received on existing EPPOS from NRC staff or from outside individuals or organizations.

NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Section II.G, "Public Education and Information," indicates this information shall be provided annually and include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a. educational information on radiation;
- b. contact for additional information;
- c. protective measures, e.g. evacuation routes and relocation centers, sheltering, respiratory protection, radioprotective drugs; and
- d. special needs of the handicapped.

It further states that means for accomplishing this dissemination may include, but are not limited to, information in the telephone book; periodic information in utility bills; posting in public areas; and publications distributed on an annual basis. In essence, the intent of the Planning Standard is that the means for disseminating public information materials are flexible, and that it is not so much the format of the information that is important, but the content.

Additionally, Section II.G states that the public information program shall provide the permanent and transient adult population within the plume exposure EPZ an adequate opportunity to become aware of the information annually. The programs should include provision for written material that is likely to be available in a residence during an emergency. Updated information shall be disseminated at least annually.

The public information program and its implementation is a part of the licensee's and the State and local governments' Radiological Emergency Plans. The NRC has oversight responsibility for the licensee's public information program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has oversight responsibility for the State and local governments' public information program and its implementation. Additionally, as agreed upon by the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee (January 20, 1987), FEMA has the lead for the review of emergency information provided to the public. Therefore, licensee changes to its public information program need to be reviewed by FEMA in concert with the NRC. This joint review is facilitated through the Regional Assistance Committee (RAC) and the NRC member; the affected FEMA and the NRC Regions; and FEMA and NRC Headquarters.

Licenses may provide emergency information to the public via brochures, calendars, telephone book inserts, utility bills, flyers, etc. The manner in which the licensee disseminates this information should take into consideration the uniqueness of the population in the EPZ such as those members of the public who do not have telephones or other utility connections. In the specific case of telephone book inserts, it would be appropriate to inform the public that the information is there by some means such as a notice to that effect on the front of the telephone book, in utility bills, newspapers, flyers, etc. As long as the requisite emergency planning information is included, licenses may change the emergency plan with regard to the manner in which emergency information is provided to the public under 50.54(q). There is no decrease in effectiveness of the plan and the change may be made without NRC prior approval.

Since any change to the licensee's public information program would impact the State and local government Radiological Emergency Plans, the licensee should coordinate any change in the method of dissemination of emergency information to the public with offsite officials prior to submitting the change to the NRC. The State and local governments should submit these changes to FEMA for its review. It is FEMA's policy that methods, such as telephone book inserts, are acceptable with the understanding that a more comprehensive emergency planning document, such as a brochure, should be issued once every three years. A brochure would be needed to assure that new plume exposure pathway EPZ residents are informed of emergency planning information and to capture emergency planning information changes which may have occurred over the past three years in one document.