

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DIRECTIVE TRANSMITTAL

TN: DT-03-05

To: NRC Management Directives Custodians

Subject: Transmittal of Management Directive 8.2, "NRC Incident Response Program"

Purpose: Directive and Handbook 8.2 are being revised to update NRC organizational responsibilities and authorities to reflect current NRC incident response practice. Considerations for NRC coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding responses to terrorist actions against NRC licensed facilities or materials locations are being specified. Organizational titles are being revised to reflect the current NRC organization, including the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO), the Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP), and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Also, references to NRC incident response guidance documents and tools are being revised to reflect enhancements of NRC incident response capabilities.

Because of the extent of the revision of MD 8.2, no change bars have been used.

Office and
Division of Origin: Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Division of Incident Response Operations

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

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Availability: Rules and Directives Branch
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NRC Incident Response Program

Directive
8.2

Contents

Policy	1
Objectives	1
Organizational Responsibilities and	
Delegations of Authority	2
Chairman	2
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)	2
Director, Office of International Programs (OIP)	2
Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)	3
Executive Director for Operations (EDO)	4
Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)	4
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)	5
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)	6
Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)	6
Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP)	6
Director, Office of Administration (ADM)	7
Chief Information Officer (CIO)	8
General Counsel (GC)	8
Inspector General (IG)	9
Regional Administrators (RAs)	9
Applicability	10
Handbook	10
Definitions	11
References	12



U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Volume: 8 Licensee Oversight Programs

NSIR

NRC Incident Response Program Directive 8.2

Policy (8.2-01)

It is the policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be prepared to respond to incidents and emergencies involving NRC licensees and Agreement State licensees.

Objectives (8.2-02)

- To ensure that the NRC response to incidents and emergencies involving NRC licensees and Agreement State licensees is consistent with the NRC mission, compatible with licensee responsibilities, supportive of the emergency response functions of State and local governments, and coordinated with the responses of other Federal agencies with emergency response responsibilities. (021)
- To establish and implement the NRC Incident Response Plan and to identify NRC organizational responsibilities that will provide assistance, commit staff, and manage the initial NRC response to incidents and emergencies involving licensed facilities and materials. To ensure preparedness, the budgets and operating plans of the individual offices should reflect applicable provisions of this directive. (022)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03)

Chairman
(031)

Has ultimate authority for all NRC functions, including Lead Federal Agency (LFA) functions, pertaining to an emergency involving an NRC licensee and for supporting States during an emergency involving an Agreement State licensee.

Director, Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
(032)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Keeps congressional contacts informed of the NRC Incident Response Plan. (c)

Director, Office of International Programs (OIP)
(033)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Assists the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO), Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), in arranging periodic emergency response meetings with Canada

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of International Programs (OIP)
(033) (continued)

and Mexico. Interacts with the U.S. Department of State on emergency response issues. (c)

- Coordinates incident response activities with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations. (d)

Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
(034)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Maintains, with DIRO and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), the NRC News Center capability and manages the center once it is activated. (c)
- Keeps the NRC senior managers informed of licensee, State, and public announcements and actions involving the joint information center. (d)
- Keeps news media informed of NRC actions and coordinates with other public information organizations. (e)
- Responds to information requests from the news media and the general public about the emergency. (f)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Executive Director for Operations (EDO) (035)

- Oversees the NRC Incident Response Program. (a)
- Ensures the cooperation and support of all NRC offices in providing cognizant staff for training (including exercises and special projects) and responding to actual events. (b)
- Provides EDO staff to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (c)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (d)

Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) (036)

- Directs the NRC Incident Response Program, which is implemented by DIRO. (a)
- Provides programmatic guidance, policies, plans, requirements, and procedures necessary to ensure a standardized NRC Incident Response Program. (b)
- Develops and maintains the Information Assessment Team (IAT) to assess the credibility of threats and informs and coordinates with other appropriate agencies. (c)
- Maintains the Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer, and the Continuity of Operations Program. (d)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)

(036) (continued)

- Represents the NRC as the safeguards and security contact with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and intelligence and law enforcement communities on counterterrorism and IAT activities. (e)
- Provides classified telecommunications and intelligence support and security advice and assistance in response to security incidents. (f)
- Maintains signature authority for memoranda of understanding coordinated between the NRC and other Federal and State agencies regarding safeguards and nuclear security measures and incident response activities. (g)
- Designates the Director of DIRO as the NSIR representative at Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) meetings. (h)

Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)

(037)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Provides emergency officers for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
(038)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Provides emergency officers for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)
- Designates an NRR representative to represent the NRC at the FRPCC meetings. (d)

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
(039)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)

Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP)
(0310)

- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP)
(0310) (continued)

- Assists DIRO in implementation of the State outreach program to increase and improve NRC's interactions with States during exercises and briefings. (c)

Director, Office of Administration (ADM)
(0311)

- Provides day-to-day operations and maintenance of building equipment and systems for the Headquarters Operations Center and the News Center (e.g., automated energy management and temperature control and support services to maintain a safe and healthy work environment). (a)
- Ensures that all emergency equipment and systems support the Headquarters Operations Center and the News Center (e.g., emergency utility power and associated systems) with a comprehensive preventive maintenance system. (b)
- Provides personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (c)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (d)
- Represents the NRC with other Federal, State, and local agencies and the law enforcement community on matters pertaining to physical security at facilities occupied by the NRC or its contractors. (e)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Chief Information Officer (CIO)
(0312)

- Provides infrastructure telecommunications and computer systems and equipment to the Headquarters Operations Center. (a)
- Provides telecommunications team members to support the NRC incident response organization at headquarters, the regional base team, and the site team during incident response activation. (b)
- Provides management and funding of personnel to operate the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS). (c)
- Provides personnel to assist with the operation of computer, telephone, and facsimile equipment in the News Center for OPA. (d)
- Provides and maintains facsimile machines for the Headquarters Operations Center and the News Center. (e)
- Directs NRC's computer and information security program. (f)
- In conjunction with the Director of DIRO, maintains the NRC Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan. (g)

General Counsel (GC)
(0313)

- Participates in training of incident investigation team and augmented inspection team members. (a)
- Provides legal advice, as requested, during incident investigations and augmented inspections. (b)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Inspector General (IG) (0314)

May participate as an observer during the response to an incident or an emergency.

Regional Administrators (RAs) (0315)

- Maintain an effective incident response capability. (a)
- Select a staff member to serve as the full-time Regional Emergency Response Coordinator. (b)
- Provide Regional Duty Officers for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)
- Provide qualified staff personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (d)
- Provide training and support participation in exercises for incident response team members. (e)
- Maintain a functional Regional Incident Response Center for a Regional Base Team. (f)
- Maintain the capability to staff the Regional Incident Response Center promptly. (g)
- Support an outreach program for other regional Federal agencies to identify resources and develop working arrangements to support the NRC as the LFA in response to incidents or emergencies. (h)

Organizational Responsibilities and Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03) (continued)

Regional Administrators (RAs)

(0315) (continued)

- Manage the regional program to provide potassium iodide to regional inspectors. (i)
- Support an outreach program to ensure that State and local organizations and licensees are aware of the resources of the NRC and other Federal agencies to support them during an actual event. (j)
- Support a program to attend meetings of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center working groups, Regional Interagency Steering Committees, Regional Response Teams, and other Federal agency meetings to integrate the NRC regional response with the response of other Federal agencies. (k)

Applicability

(8.2-04)

The policy and guidance in this directive and handbook apply to all NRC employees.

Handbook

(8.2-05)

Handbook 8.2 contains the major components of the NRC Incident Response Program, identifies objectives for NRC incident response at headquarters and the regional offices, establishes responsibilities, and provides general guidance.

Definitions

(8.2-06)

Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP)

The FRERP is a coordinating mechanism by which Federal agencies reach agreement on a joint response to radiological emergencies. It becomes effective when more than one agency responds to a radiological emergency. It identifies the NRC as the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) for radiological emergencies that occur at fixed facilities or that involve radiological materials or activities licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State. As the LFA, NRC manages Federal onsite activities, serves as the primary Federal source of technical information that involves onsite status and offsite radiological conditions, and ensures development of coordinated Federal protective action assessments and positions for use by State and local authorities. When the NRC is the LFA during the response to a serious radiological emergency, it works principally with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. When the NRC is not the LFA for radiological emergencies, the NRC role would be to provide support to the LFA.

Federal Response Plan (FRP)

The FRP is the implementing mechanism for resource support from the Federal Government to affected State and local governments for events that result in a Presidential declared “major disaster” or “emergency” under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The NRC is identified as the Lead Federal Agency for radiological emergencies that occur at fixed facilities or that involve radiological materials or activities licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State using the coordination mechanism of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

Definitions

(8.2-06) (continued)

United States Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN)

The CONPLAN is a coordinating mechanism that provides overall guidance to Federal, State, and local agencies concerning how the Federal Government would respond to a potential or an actual terrorist threat or incident that occurs in the United States, particularly one involving weapons of mass destruction. The CONPLAN outlines an organized and unified capability for a timely, coordinated response by Federal agencies to a terrorist threat or act. It establishes conceptual guidance for assessing and monitoring a developing threat, notifying appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies of the nature of the threat, and deploying the requisite advisory and technical resources to assist the Lead Federal Agency in facilitating Federal interdepartmental coordination of crisis and consequence management activities.

References

(8.2-07)

Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) (61 FR 20944; May 8, 1996).

Federal Response Plan (FRP), Pub. L. 93-288, as amended, 9230.1-PL, April 1999.

NRC Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program."

NRC Management Directive 8.9, "Accident Investigation."

NUREG-1303, "Incident Investigation Manual."

References

(8.2-07) (continued)

NUREG-0728, "NRC Incident Response Plan."

NUREG/BR-0230, "Response Coordination Manual."

NUREG/BR-0150, "Response Technical Manual," and Supplements for Gaseous Diffusion Plants and Fuel Cycle Facilities.

United States Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN), January 2001.

NRC Incident Response Program

Handbook

8.2

Contents

Part I

Incident Response Planning Organization	1
NRC Incident Response Program (A)	1
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) (B)	1
Director of DIRO (1)	1
DIRO Coordination Section (2)	4
DIRO Operations Section (3)	6
NRC Regional Offices (C)	8

Part II

Emergency Response Organization: Qualifications, Training, and Exercises and Drills	10
Qualifications (A)	10
Training (B)	10
Exercises and Drills (C)	11

Part III

Incident Response Facilities and Resources	13
Headquarters Operations Center (A)	13
Regional Incident Response Centers (B)	13
Resources (C)	13

Part IV

Incident Response Plan, Procedures, and Tools	14
Incident Response Plan (A)	14
Procedures and Guidance Documents (B)	14
Tools (C)	16
Information Technology Systems (1)	16
Other Tools (2)	18

Contents (continued)

Part V

Interaction With Other Organizations	20
Federal Coordination (A)	20
Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) (1)	20
Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) (2)	20
Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG) (3)	21
Emergency Support Function Leaders Group (ESFLG) (4)	21
Regional Interagency Steering Committees (RISCs) (5)	21
National Response Team (NRT) (6)	21
Regional Response Teams (RRTs) (7)	22
Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health (ATEFH) (8)	22
Security and Safeguards Responses (9)	22
Transportation Accidents (10)	23
Other Radiological Emergencies and Other Emergencies (11)	23
State Coordination (B)	23
Licensee Coordination (C)	24
Regional Coordination (D)	24
International Liaison (E)	24

Part I Incident Response Planning Organization

NRC Incident Response Program (A)

The NRC Incident Response Program encompasses the NRC response to incidents that occur at nuclear facilities and incidents involving nuclear materials or radiological activities licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State. The NRC Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) is responsible for directing and maintaining an effective NRC incident response capability. The NSIR Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) is responsible for developing and maintaining the NRC Incident Response Program and its implementing plan and procedures and for assuring incident response readiness through comprehensive assessment, training, and exercise programs.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) (B)

Director of DIRO (1)

The Director of DIRO is responsible for the following activities:

- Developing, implementing, and maintaining the NRC Incident Response Program. (a)
- Ensuring the operational readiness of the NRC incident response capability, including the continuous functionality of the Headquarters Operations Center and its telecommunications, computer, and other response systems, equipment, and tools. (b)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

Director of DIRO (1) (continued)

- Providing 24-hour-a-day response staffing for the Headquarters Operations Center. (c)
- Providing DIRO personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or an emergency. (d)
- Coordinating incident response exercises. (e)
- Calling on other NRC offices to provide staff to receive training, participate in incident response exercises, and respond to incidents and emergencies. (f)
- Providing training for incident response team members. (g)
- Maintaining and revising the NRC Incident Response Plan and implementing procedures. (h)
- Providing direct resources in the form of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to each regional office to coordinate and maintain the Regional Incident Response Program. (i)
- Establishing criteria and performing reviews to confirm that the regional offices maintain an effective incident response capability. (j)
- Maintaining an outreach program for other Federal agencies to identify resources and develop working arrangements to support the NRC as the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) in response to radiological incidents or emergencies and for NRC to support other Federal agencies when they are the designated LFA in response to other incidents and emergencies. (k)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

Director of DIRO (1) (continued)

- Representing the NRC as the incident response contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Energy (DOE), and other Federal agencies. (l)
- Supporting other designated watch and emergency response functions coordinated by other agencies. (m)
- Supporting an outreach program to ensure that State organizations and licensees are aware of the resources of the NRC and other Federal agencies that are available to support them during an actual event. (n)
- Maintaining, reviewing, and coordinating memoranda of understanding with other organizations relative to incident response activities. (o)
- Administering the incident investigation program to meet the objectives set forth in Management Directive (MD) 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program." Establishing and maintaining the NRC capability for investigating operational events with the assistance of other NRC offices; maintaining a roster of Incident Investigation Team (IIT) candidates. Coordinating IIT training requirements as defined in MD 8.3. (p)
- Maintaining, with the assistance of other NRC offices, a capability for investigating an event of extraordinary safety significance to meet the objectives set forth in MD 8.9, "Accident Investigation." (q)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

Director of DIRO (1) (continued)

- Making appropriate arrangements for the continuity of essential operations of the NRC in response to any catastrophic or disastrous incident and maintaining the NRC Continuity of Operations Plan. (r)
- Representing the NRC at meetings sponsored by the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (Department of Commerce) as the Chief Infrastructure Assurance Officer and, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer, maintaining the NRC Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan. (s)
- Representing the NRC at the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee meetings and serving as a member of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center working groups, the Catastrophic Disaster Response Group, and the National Response Team. (t)
- Representing the NRC on selected Department of Homeland Security Policy Coordination Committees and Working Groups. (u)
- Representing the NRC by supporting and participating in international incident response activities, including technical cooperation and information exchange. (v)
- Representing the NRC as the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) National Officer regarding INES activities. (w)

DIRO Coordination Section (2)

The DIRO Coordination Section ensures that the NRC is prepared to respond to an incident involving an NRC or an Agreement State

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

DIRO Coordination Section (2) (continued)

licensee by coordinating Federal resources to support State and local officials; managing and training NRC response teams; and developing, documenting, and maintaining response tools. The DIRO Coordination Section is responsible for the following activities:

- Ensuring that both NRC and external responding organizations are familiar with the NRC's role, plans, and procedures and that plans and procedures are in place to ensure that the overall Federal response is coordinated and consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public and the common defense and security. (a)
- Ensuring that these external responding organizations are supported by the information and training necessary for them to perform their incident response functions and duties in support of the NRC. (b)
- Training NRC personnel on the plans and procedures associated with the NRC Incident Response Program. (c)
- Developing and maintaining procedures to initiate a prompt NRC incident response and staffing of the Headquarters Operations Center. (d)
- With the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, maintaining the emergency officer program for the receipt of incident notifications. (e)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

DIRO Coordination Section (2) (continued)

- Ensuring that the NRC regional incident response programs are coordinated and standardized and that regional personnel are sufficiently trained to respond effectively as members of regional base and site teams. (f)
- Developing, validating, and maintaining computer tools to support the NRC Incident Response Program. (g)

DIRO Operations Section (3)

The DIRO Operations Section ensures that the NRC is prepared to respond to an incident involving an NRC or an Agreement State licensee by managing and training certain NRC response teams and maintaining the Headquarters Operations Center and its support systems. The DIRO Operations Section is responsible for the following activities: (a)

- Developing and maintaining the plans and procedures necessary to ensure that the response from the Headquarters Operations Center is coordinated and consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public and the common defense and security. (i)
- Maintaining current directories and call lists of emergency response contacts. (ii)
- Providing management and funding of the emergency telecommunications capabilities supporting the Headquarters Operations Center. (iii)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

DIRO Operations Section (3) (continued)

- Maintaining computer systems and equipment in the Headquarters Operations Center. (iv)
- Providing and maintaining the telephone system and bridging equipment in the Headquarters Operations Center. (v)

The DIRO Operations Section provides continuous shift staffing of the Headquarters Operations Center. The watchstanders are responsible for the following activities: (b)

- Receiving and initially evaluating reactor reports, nuclear material reports, and other information for safety and security significance. (i)
- Subsequently notifying NRC headquarters and regional offices and other Federal agencies for further evaluation and/or rapid response. (ii)
- Receiving and initially evaluating safeguards-related reports and other safeguards information for security significance. (iii)
- Subsequently notifying NRC headquarters Information Assessment Team members for further evaluation. (iv)
- Supporting the initial response to an incident or the rapid activation of the Headquarters Operations Center. (v)
- Coordinating with other agency representatives for notification, assessment, and coordination purposes. (vi)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Incident Response
Operations (DIRO) (B) (continued)

DIRO Operations Section (3) (continued)

The watchstanders are also responsible for supporting the response operations and response coordination elements of the NRC's mission by serving as members of the NRC response organization during activation, exercises, and drills. (d)

NRC Regional Offices (C)

The NRC regional offices have the following components in place to implement the NRC Incident Response Program: (1)

- An effective incident response capability. (a)
- A staff member to serve as the full-time Regional Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC). (b)
- A Regional Duty Officer Program for the receipt of initial notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)
- Qualified staff personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident or emergency. (d)
- A training program to provide training and maintain records for identified regional staff on general response, specific position procedures, use of potassium iodide, technical tools, and other incident response areas. Incident response training is conducted by qualified personnel and coordinated by Regional Emergency Response Coordinators. (e)

NRC Regional Offices (C) (continued)

- A regional exercise plan that includes participation in selected exercises. (f)
- A functional Regional Incident Response Center for a Regional Base Team. (g)
- The capability to staff the Regional Incident Response Center promptly. (h)
- The capability to dispatch site teams on short notice in response to a radiological incident. (i)
- An outreach program to provide information on incident response issues to State and regional Federal organizations and to licensees. (j)
- Standardized incident response procedures and region-specific incident response procedures, including implementation details. (k)
- Maintenance of current directories of regional incident response contacts. (l)

The regional office(s) designated as the NRC's alternate incident response site pursuant to the Continuity of Operations Plan will have additional trained response staff and enhanced telecommunications and computer systems and equipment capabilities. (2)

Part II

Emergency Response Organization: Qualifications, Training, and Exercises and Drills

Qualifications (A)

The Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) and the regional offices maintain rosters of qualified emergency responders to staff the emergency response organization in accordance with the NRC Incident Response Plan and implementing procedures. (1)

DIRO and the regional offices determine the qualifications for emergency response positions. (2)

Training (B)

DIRO and regional office staffs provide headquarters and regional personnel with the level of training necessary to perform assigned incident response functions and maintain response readiness. (1)

DIRO and regional office staff train the following: (2)

- Teams of functional incident response specialists in the following areas: (a)
 - Response management (i)
 - Technical support (including reactor safety, protective measures, materials/fuel cycle facility response, and safeguards/security) (ii)
 - Coordination and support (iii)
 - Liaison activities (iv)

Training (B) (continued)

- Other Federal agencies to support the NRC in emergency response and provide information to State emergency organizations and licensees about the support that is available from the NRC and other Federal agencies during an emergency. (b)

Exercises and Drills (C)

DIRO and the regional offices coordinate NRC participation in periodic exercises and drills at power reactor sites, fuel cycle facilities, and materials licensee locations to practice, learn, and assess the response procedure and to confirm and maintain the capabilities of NRC's response personnel, both at headquarters and in the regional offices. (1)

- Headquarters will plan to participate in selected exercises each year as specified in the NRC Operating Plan. (a)
- Each regional office will plan to participate in at least one exercise each year as specified in the NRC Operating Plan. (b)

DIRO and the regional offices will, to the extent possible, participate in incident response exercises that include scenarios with significant ingestion pathway and security aspects to promote an integrated licensee, local, State, and Federal response. The NRC incident response exercise schedule, prepared by DIRO, with input provided by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards in coordination with the regional offices, describes the incident response exercise program for each year. (2)

Exercises and Drills (C) (continued)

DIRO also coordinates NRC's participation in large-scale incident response exercises, Federal interagency exercises, technical exercises, counterterrorism exercises, exercises that have a radiological component, and emergency response tabletop exercises organized and conducted by other organizations having radiological responsibilities. Regional office support of these exercises will be on a case-by-case basis. (3)

Part III

Incident Response Facilities and Resources

Headquarters Operations Center (A)

The Headquarters Operations Center is the NRC headquarters center for incident response communications during an emergency. (1)

The Headquarters Operations Center is equipped with communications and response facilities and resources (as described below) and designated work areas for each response team. (2)

The Headquarters Operations Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with Headquarters Operations Officers and Headquarters Emergency Response Officers (as appropriate to the threat condition level). (3)

Regional Incident Response Centers (B)

The Regional Incident Response Centers are the NRC regional office centers for incident response communications during an emergency. (1)

The Regional Incident Response Centers are equipped with communications and response facilities, resources (as described below), and designated work areas for each response team. (2)

Resources (C)

Consistent with appropriate budgets and operating plans, headquarters and the regional offices possess or have available appropriate resources. These resources include power reactor licensee emergency plans and implementing procedures, updated final safety analysis reports for each nuclear power plant and other nuclear facilities, notification telephone directories, and emergency response organization procedures.

Part IV

Incident Response Plan, Procedures, and Tools

Incident Response Plan (A)

The Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) develops and periodically updates an NRC Incident Response Plan that assigns responsibilities for performing emergency response functions and making the decisions governing the NRC response to incidents or accidents involving NRC and Agreement State licensees. (1)

The NRC Incident Response Plan identifies the following: (2)

- The NRC emergency response groups (including an Executive Team, headquarters analysis groups, a support group, and a liaison group), the regional base team, and the site team (a)
- Responsibilities of the licensees, NRC headquarters and regional offices, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies (b)
- Response modes and response functions. (c)

The plan also provides a summary of interactions with other organizations. (3)

Procedures and Guidance Documents (B)

NUREG/BR-0150, "Response Technical Manual," contains standard technical procedures and guidance that DIRO develops and maintains, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to assist in performing assessments in the event of an accident. These tools reflect the current understanding of accident progression and the

Procedures and Guidance Documents (B) (continued)

latest guidance from other Federal agencies and are designed to be used in an accident environment. DIRO assesses the adequacy of these tools and revises them to ensure they can be used effectively during the response to an accident. (1)

NUREG/BR-0230, "Response Coordination Manual," includes the following information, which is maintained by DIRO: (2)

- Emergency Response Resources Guide (a)
- Response Protocols for Federal Agencies (b)
- Resources Available for Nuclear Power Plant Emergencies Under the Price-Anderson Act and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (c)

Other program documents include the following: (3)

- "Plan for Continuity of Operations (COOP)" (a)
- Standardized procedures, which are maintained by DIRO and the regional offices, for the following teams and officers: (b)
 - Executive Team (ET) (i)
 - Protective Measures Team (PMT) (ii)
 - Reactor Safety Team (RST) (iii)
 - Safeguards Team (ST) (iv)
 - Fuel Cycle Safety Team (FCST) (v)
 - Liaison Team (LT) (vi)

Procedures and Guidance Documents (B) (continued)

- Response Coordination Team (RCT) (vii)
- Operations Support Team (OST) (viii)
- Headquarters Operations Officer (HOO) (ix)
- Emergency Officer (EO) (x)
- Regional Duty Officer (RDO) (xi)
- Regional Base Team (BT) (xii)

DIRO and the regional offices jointly develop and maintain site team procedures for teams to respond to the accident location, report to their assigned area, and request additional support, if needed. (4)

Tools (C)

Information Technology Systems (1)

The following information technology systems are used to support incident response:

The Operations Center Information Management System (OCIMS), which is the primary computer system used for creating, storing, sending, and retrieving information within the Headquarters Operations Center. (a)

The Response Computer System (RCS), which is the computer system used for creating documents and briefing materials (press releases, status summaries, etc.) in the Headquarters Operations Center. (b)

The Emergency Telecommunications System (ETS), which is the primary telecommunications system used to transmit voice and data

Tools (C) (continued)

Information Technology Systems (1) (continued)

communications between NRC-licensed facilities and the Headquarters Operations Center. (c)

The Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), which provides for licensee-activated transmission of preselected real-time plant performance and meteorological data from onsite computers to the Headquarters Operations Center during emergencies at commercial nuclear power plants. (d)

The NRC Geographic Information System (GIS), which displays geographic maps of the areas surrounding radiological facilities. Information that can be displayed includes roads, bodies of water, evacuation routes and zones, population and land use, schools, hospitals, reception centers, and environmental monitoring information. (e)

TOPO, which is a digital mapping software computer program that includes topographic coverage of the entire United States. A specific location in the United States can be found in TOPO by searching by place name, geographic feature, or latitude/longitude. (f)

The RASCAL (Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis) computer code, which is used to project radiological consequences during accidents. (g)

HPAC (Hazard Prediction and Assessment Capability), which is an automated software computer program that provides the means to predict the effects of hazardous material releases in the atmosphere and their impact on populations. This program can be used, for example, to predict hazardous areas produced by the detonation of radiological dispersal devices. (h)

Tools (C) (continued)

Information Technology Systems (1) (continued)

CATS (Consequence Assessment Tool Set), which is a computer modeling system used by HPAC that relies on various types of weather products to support transport and dispersion calculations and their corresponding hazard predictions. (i)

HOTSPOT, which is a set of health physics computer codes that provides an approximation of the radiation effects associated with the short duration (less than a few hours) release of radioactive material in the atmosphere. (j)

The CAMEO (Computer-aided Management of Emergency Operations) computer software program, which is used to help emergency managers and responders plan for and respond to chemical accidents. (k)

The ALOHA (Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres) computer air dispersion model, which is used to estimate airborne pollutant concentrations downwind from the source of an accidental chemical release. (l)

The MARPLOT (Mapping Application for Response and Planning of Local Operational Tasks), which is used to display electronic maps of areas affected by a chemical release. (m)

Other Tools (2)

The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) is a system used to rate serious reactor and materials events occurring around the world according to their safety significance. An INES rating is assigned to each significant nuclear event by NRC program offices. These nuclear safety-significant rated events are reported by DIRO to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be made available to the international community. (a)

Tools (C) (continued)

Other Tools (2) (continued)

The Nuclear Events Web-based System (NEWS) is a secure, Internet-based communications system used by IAEA for the rapid dissemination of INES-rated events. (b)

Part V

Interaction With Other Organizations

Federal Coordination (A)

The Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) coordinates the NRC response to radiological emergencies in conformance with the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP). In addition, DIRO participates in a number of Federal response-related committees or groups that are chaired or coordinated by other agencies. Several of the committees and groups are discussed below.

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) (1)

The FRPCC is the principal committee for radiological emergency preparedness policy issues to be discussed and resolved by Federal agencies, with overlapping responsibilities for response to radiological incidents. The FRPCC has established several subcommittees to develop guidance and coordinate interagency exercises. The Director of DIRO and the Chief of the Equipment and Human Performance Branch, Division of Inspection Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), represent the NRC at the FRPCC meetings. Headquarters staff members represent the NRC on the subcommittees.

Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) (2)

The FRMAC is the center for coordination of offsite Federal (and ideally State and local) radiological monitoring, assessment, and evaluation during an emergency response. DIRO and the regional offices provide assistance as needed to the FRMAC and participate in FRMAC working groups to develop procedures and provide training to Federal agencies on an integrated Federal emergency response.

Federal Coordination (A) (continued)

Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG) (3)

The CDRG, chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is the headquarters-level group of representatives from Federal departments and agencies under the Federal Response Plan (FRP). The CDRG serves as the centralized coordinating group that supports the on-scene Federal response and recovery efforts. The CDRG addresses response issues and problems that require national decisions or policy direction. The Director of DIRO represents the NRC in this group.

Emergency Support Function Leaders Group (ESFLG) (4)

The ESFLG addresses FRP planning and implementation at the working level in headquarters, and forwards to the CDRG those issues that cannot be resolved. The ESFLG is the headquarters group of representatives from FRP departments and agencies that develops procedures and conducts training and exercises for the FRP. DIRO staff represents the NRC on the ESFLG.

Regional Interagency Steering Committees (RISCs) (5)

The RISCs, chaired by the FEMA regions, are the regional counterparts to the ESFLG. The RISCs identify issues and planning needs and forward them to the ESFLG for resolution. The regional offices represent the NRC on each of the RISCs.

National Response Team (NRT) (6)

The Director of DIRO is a member of the NRT, which is chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This team responds to all types of chemical and oil spill emergencies. DIRO attends meetings and participates in committees, when appropriate, to identify emerging issues and programs in which the NRC has authority or interest. DIRO notifies the appropriate NRC organization of any issues of concern.

Federal Coordination (A) (continued)

Regional Response Teams (RRTs) (7)

The RRTs, co-chaired by EPA and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regions, are the regional counterparts to the NRT. The regional offices represent the NRC on each of the RRTs.

Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health (ATEFH) (8)

DIRO supports the activities of the ATEFH in preparation for incidents in which NRC is the Lead Federal Agency (LFA). These activities include procedures and training for protective action evaluation, deployment, and personnel protection. The advisory team consists of representatives from the EPA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Security and Safeguards Responses (9)

The Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) leads other NRC offices in coordinating with other Federal agencies during security and safeguards responses at NRC licensed facilities or materials locations. This coordination includes the following:

Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST) - The DEST, chaired by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is a senior-level group of representatives from Federal agencies under the United States Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN). The DEST serves as the on-scene advisor group to the FBI agent in charge at the scene (in either a Command Post or Joint Operations Center). The DEST addresses high-level terrorism response issues. NSIR, in coordination with other offices, designates a representative from the NRC for the DEST. (a)

Federal Coordination (A) (continued)

Security and Safeguards Responses (9) (continued)

Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC) - The SIOC is the FBI's headquarters command center during national-level responses, including responses to terrorist threats and/or events. Headquarters-level liaisons from the NRC and other agencies are conducted through the SIOC during these responses. NSIR, in coordination with other offices, designates a representative from the NRC for the SIOC when responding to emergencies in which the FBI has a role. (b)

Department of Homeland Security Coordination Center (DHSCC) - The DHSCC is the Department of Homeland Security's headquarters coordination center that is activated in response to terrorist actions and threats. NSIR, in coordination with other offices, designates a representative from the NRC for the DHSCC, as appropriate, during these responses. (c)

Transportation Accidents (10)

For transportation accidents, DIRO coordinates emergency planning activities with the Department of Transportation. This coordination involves the development of coordinated procedures and periodic training of other Federal agency staff.

Other Radiological Emergencies and Other Emergencies (11)

For other types of radiological emergencies and other emergencies, DIRO, in coordination with other offices, designates representatives to support other Federal agencies, when requested.

State Coordination (B)

DIRO and the regional offices conduct a State outreach program designed to increase and improve NRC's interactions with States

State Coordination (B) (continued)

during exercises and emergencies and to improve the States' understanding of the response to a severe accident or other incident at a facility for which the NRC is the LFA. The program provides opportunities for training staff from State organizations in emergency response and emphasizes increased frequency of exercise participation and briefings on the NRC Incident Response Program. DIRO and the regional offices periodically exercise and meet with each State as specified in the NRC Operating Plan. DIRO coordinates State access to power plant data through the Emergency Response Data System.

Licensee Coordination (C)

The regional offices periodically meet with licensees to maintain a coordinated site emergency response system and to conduct periodic exercises with licensees to test the NRC incident response organization as specified in the NRC Operating Plan. DIRO and the regional offices provide resources and training to licensees to promote an integrated response.

Regional Coordination (D)

DIRO periodically meets with the Regional Emergency Response Coordinators to coordinate Incident Response Program improvements and new initiatives and to ensure consistent approaches to incident response.

International Liaison (E)

DIRO coordinates international liaison activities with the Office of International Programs. (1)

DIRO conducts communication drills and develops joint plans for responding to an incident with international consequences. DIRO

International Liaison (E) (continued)

also participates in international committees (e.g., the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency) to conduct exercises, share research, exchange experience, and develop standard emergency response guidance. (2)

DIRO meets periodically with Canadian and Mexican emergency response organizations to develop a coordinated response to incidents with cross-border implications. (3)