

January 2005 Security Highlights

- The NRC Headquarters Operations Center started using the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CWIN), a survivable telecommunications network that is physically separate from the public switch telephone network and Internet. CWIN provides telecommunications connectivity to various federal and state emergency operations centers, key industry partners, and Information Sharing and Analysis Centers to restore the national infrastructure during emergencies.
- The NRC continues to work with the Department of Homeland Security, other federal agencies, and the nuclear industry to establish the "Inter-Agency Plan for the Comprehensive Review of Commercial Nuclear Reactors and Associated Facilities." Among the issues discussed at several meetings over the month of January were: the DHS comprehensive review initiative (an initiative to perform a comprehensive review of commercial nuclear reactors and associated facilities in response to HSPD-7 and legislative mandates on the US Coast Guard (USCG)), as well as, the time frame protocols for vetting the draft DHS Risk Assessment and Management for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP) process once it becomes available; the impact on agencies' resources; and the air, water, and land based threat matrices.
- The NRC participated in the kick-off meeting sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Homeland Security Council to discuss the guidelines, approach, and recommended process for submitting information on Agency Priority Mission Essential Functions. This information was requested in a memorandum dated January 10, 2005, from the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.
- The NRC has been aggressively coordinating with the Department of Defense and the FAA regarding a variety of exercises designed to hone and test response capabilities, and to ensure realistic scenarios. The NRC is working with the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) headquarters on an ongoing series of exercises designed to test NORAD assets being used to protect multiple categories of critical infrastructure sites, nuclear power plants being one such category. Additionally, the NRC participated in an initial planning conference for a NORAD/USNORTHCOM sponsored interagency exercise. The exercise is expected to include one or more chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high explosive events, and possibly a radiological dispersal device (RDD).
- The NRC is continuously working with its licensees and transmitted draft protective measures (PMs) for Group 2 Radioactive Materials Licensees to various stakeholders to solicit their views. Addressees included Agreement State and Regional NRC contacts, contacts with the Non-Destructive Testing Management Association and the Oil Field Services Industry Forum for Radiation Safety and Security, and Group 2 Radiography and Well Logging licensees. NRC also invited stakeholders to workshops in order to solicit their views and to answer questions regarding the draft PMs. The workshops will be held February 17, 23, and 24, and March 3, in Las Vegas, NV, Houston TX, Arlington, TX, and Rockville, MD, respectively. On January 19, NSIR staff hosted a workshop at Children's Hospital in Boston to discuss draft enhanced security measures for Group 1 Radioactive Materials Licensees. Group 1 includes licensees who possess self-shielded irradiators (including blood irradiators), panoramic irradiators with less than 10,000 curies, teletherapy devices, gamma knife devices, and high and medium dose rate afterloaders. On January 26, the NRC conducted the final stakeholders meeting for Group 1 Material Licensees in Oakland, CA. The meeting, conducted at the Official Use Only level, was attended by approximately 30 individuals from

local hospitals, research laboratories, universities, state representatives. The Protective Measures for Group 1 Material Licensees and the implementing guidance for the Protective Measures for Group 1 Material Licensees were discussed for the purpose of receiving comments and feedback from the stakeholder communities.

- The NRC has aggressively worked in collaboration with many government agencies. Over the month of January 2005, the NRC has participated in a variety of meetings. The significant meetings included: the Potassium Iodide (KI) Subcommittee of the Federal Radiological Protection Coordinating Committee (FRPCC); the National Security Council (NSC) staff on the new Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO); a one-day conference hosted by the New York City Police Department, in conjunction with West Point, on "Surveillance and Counter Surveillance: Lessons for New York City;" the kick-off meeting at the National Counter-Terrorism Center of the interagency Nuclear Nexus Working Group which has been established to review nuclear smuggling and nuclear terrorism issues; a meeting at NRC headquarters with FBI, DHS, and DOD representatives to discuss "take-back" strategies; a DOD Nuclear Security Working Group meeting hosted by Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to discuss the latest developments in the nuclear security community; a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness-sponsored Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Medical Response Workshop with representatives from DOE, FEMA, AFRRRI, DTRA, FDA, CDC, and HSC; a meeting of the National Communications System (NCS) Committee of Principals (COP), which included updates about COP Continuity Communications Working Group (CCWG) activities; and a Homeland Security Council Policy Coordination Committee for Nuclear Power Plant Security sponsored meeting of a working group led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to discuss take-back issues.
- The NSIR staff has been working with the Office of Congressional Affairs and participated in a briefing to Congressman Weldon on security information. Others invited to participate include the New Hampshire Congressional delegation, the New Hampshire Homeland Security Advisor, and a representative from the licensee for Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. Additionally, we accompanied Congressman Hobson on a visit to the Calvert Cliff Nuclear Power Plant.

VIII Power Reactor Security Regulations

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC and the nuclear industry have taken many actions to ensure the security at nuclear power plants. A series of Advisories, Orders, and Regulatory Issue Summaries have been, and as needed, continue to be issued to strengthen further the security of NRC-licensed facilities and control of nuclear materials. The latest advisory was issued on January 28, 2005, and concerned security regarding the President's State of the Union address.

Orders were issued on April 29, 2003, to supplement the threat against which individual power reactor licensees and category I fuel cycle facilities must be able to defend (design basis threat [DBT]), to limit the number of hours that security personnel can work, and to enhance training and qualification requirements for security personnel. The security plan reviews and appropriate licensing and inspection activities to support the security plan reviews were completed by October 29, 2004.

Orders were issued on October 23, 2003, to all nuclear reactor licensees and research reactor licensees that transport spent nuclear fuel. The licensees subject to the Order have been issued a specific license by NRC authorizing the possession of spent nuclear fuel and a general license authorizing the transportation of spent nuclear fuel in a transport package approved by the Commission in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and 10 CFR Parts 50 and 71.

In March 2003, the NRC initiated a pilot program for full force-on-force exercises, which used expanded adversary characteristics that were developed as a result of the increased post 9/11 threat. The purpose of the force-on-force exercises is to assess and improve, as necessary, the performance of defensive strategies at licensed facilities. Pilot force-on-force exercises were completed at fifteen plants in 2003. The staff provided a paper to the Commission summarizing lessons learned from the force-on-force pilot program and how these lessons could be factored into the full implementation of the force-on-force program. The Commission approved enhanced force-on-force testing, and sixteen transitional force-on-force tests were conducted through October 2004. In November 2004, the NRC implemented triennial force-on-force testing program force-on-force exercises have been completed at three power reactor sites by January 2005.

To enhance the realism and effectiveness of the force-on-force exercises, the NRC has established fitness and training standards for mock adversary force personnel. Application of these standards provides assurance that the mock adversary force has received appropriate training in offensive tactics and is a credible and challenging adversary. The NRC retains responsibility for oversight of the mock adversary force and evaluation of licensee performance. In addition, measures have been established to minimize any possibility for a conflict of interest with respect to responsibilities for physical protection. To date, the mock adversary force has performed adequately in the seven force-on-force exercises in which they have participated.

Since 9/11, the staff suspended the physical protection portion of the baseline inspections in the Reactor Oversight Process and focused NRC security inspections on licensee implementation of compensatory measures to address the post-9/11 threat environment. In March 2004, the staff began implementation of the revised baseline inspection program which took into consideration enhanced security requirements and the higher threat environment. During FY 2005, inspection efforts are focusing on verifying implementation of the revised security plans. Implementation of all elements of the baseline inspection program will commence in 2006.

The NRC continues to support U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Homeland Security Council (HSC) initiative to enhance integrated response planning for power reactor facilities. Two Integrated Response Tabletop exercises were completed in 2004. The staff is continuing to work with HSC, DHS, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and others to develop plans to address recommended actions. Additionally, the NRC completed six announced walk-throughs of imminent aircraft threats with nuclear power plant licensees and lessons learned have been incorporated into a Safeguards Advisory. Walk-throughs are scheduled to resume in March 2005. The staff is developing Emergency Action Levels (EALs) for all imminent threats. The EAL development program includes plans to coordinate issues with other agencies and state and local governments.