

May 17, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

THRU: Eric J. Leeds, Director/**RA**/
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

FROM: Patricia A. Milligan, Sr. Advisor for Emergency Preparedness/**RA**/
Emergency Preparedness Directorate
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRAVEL TRIP REPORT

A summary of staff participation at the International Standards Organization (ISO) Working Group Meeting on development of International Working Agreement (IWA) on Emergency Preparedness (EP) and Operational Continuity (OC) is enclosed. ISO identified a need for a high level standard on EP as a result of multiple natural disasters around the world and the responses to these disasters. The meeting was cosponsored by the American National Standards Institute and New York University Institute for Enterprise Preparedness. Representatives from 16 nations attended as well as representatives from the United Nations Program Development Office. The report is recommended for distribution to the Commission as it may be of interest. There are no issues that require Commission attention.

Enclosures:

1. Trip Report
2. Meeting Attendees
3. Meeting Agenda

CONTACT: Patricia A. Milligan, NSIR/DPR
301-415-2223

NRC FOREIGN TRIP REPORT

Subject International Conference on: International Standards Organization International Workshop on Standardization for Emergency Preparedness.

Dates of Travel and Countries/Organizations Visited: April 24-27, 2006, New York University La Pietra Campus, Florence, Italy.

Author, Title, and Agency Affiliation: Patricia A. Milligan, Senior Advisor for Emergency Preparedness, Division of Preparedness and Response, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Sensitivity: Not sensitive

Background/Purpose: No international standard currently exists for emergency preparedness. Recent large-scale disasters ranging from tsunamis and hurricanes to earthquakes and terrorism underscores the importance of consensus guidance and international coordination in emergency readiness, response, and recovery efforts. The purpose of the meeting was to reach an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) to be published by ISO. ISO anticipates that the IWA will evolve into an ISO standard.

Abstract: Summary of Pertinent Points/Issues: Five of the participating countries submitted national standards in emergency preparedness for consideration as base documents from which to build the IWA. The meeting focused on evaluation of these standards and their applicability for the IWA. The American National Standards Institute submitted all of the ANSI EP standards and at the meeting I submitted the planning standards and guidance from NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 for consideration. Presentations were made by the United Kingdom, Australia, Malaysia, United States, Israel, France, Japan, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Consideration was also given to NATO/EAPC Report-General Guidelines for Protection of the Civilian Population against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risks. Representatives from the ISO TCM on risk also made a presentation on the draft ISO risk standard.

The development of this IWA is part of a larger effort by ISO. A technical committee (TCM 223) on Societal Risks has been commissioned and EP as well as business continuity will be part of TCM 223.

Discussion: The conference was well attended and a large number of countries were represented. As a result, the group was quite diverse in composition, representing many differing interpretations of emergency preparedness and what it encompasses. In addition, the representative from the United Nations spoke to the needs of developing nations with less well-developed infrastructure.

A general agreement was reached that EP will be the basis for development of the Criteria Standard and Operational and Implementation Standards will be developed specifically for response, operational and business continuity.

The working group identified the key elements that need to be addressed for development of adequate emergency response plans:

1. Roles, Responsibilities, Laws and Authorities.
2. Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Impact Analysis:
 - a. Identify hazards, the likelihood of their occurrence, and the vulnerability of people, property, the environment.
 - b. Hazards to be considered at a minimum should include, but should not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Natural hazards (geological, meteorological, and biological); and
 - ii. Human-caused events (accidental and intentional).
 - c. Impact analysis to determine potential for detrimental impacts of the hazards.
3. Hazard Mitigation:
 - a. Develop and implement a strategy to eliminate hazards or mitigate the effects of hazards that cannot be eliminated.
 - b. Mitigation strategy should be based on the results of the hazard identification, risk assessment, impact analysis, program assessment, operational experience and cost-benefit.
4. Resource Management:
 - a. Resource management should include personnel, equipment, training, facilities, funding, expert knowledge, materials, and voluntary donations.
 - b. Mutual Aid.
 - c. The need for mutual aid should be determined and agreements established.
5. Planning:
 - a. The program should include, but should not be limited to, a strategic plan, an emergency operations/response plan, a mitigation plan, a recovery plan, and a continuity plan.
6. Common Plan Elements:
 - a. Functional roles and responsibilities of internal and external agencies, organizations, departments, and individuals.
 - b. Lines of authority for those agencies, organizations, departments, and individuals.
7. Direction, Control, and Coordination:
 - a. Develop the capability to direct, control, and coordinate response and recovery operations.
8. Communications and Warning:
 - a. Communications systems and procedures should be established and regularly tested
 - b. Develop and maintain a reliable capability to notify officials and alert emergency response personnel.
 - c. Develop emergency communications and warning protocols, processes, and procedures.

9. Training:
 - a. Assess training needs, develop and implement a training/education program.
 - b. Evaluate skills and responses by exercises.

10. Crisis Communication and Public Information:
 - a. Develop plans for crisis communications to include:
 - i. Pre-disaster, disaster, and post-disaster information;
 - ii. Protective action guidelines/recommendations; and
 - iii. Public awareness programs in areas where the public is potentially impacted

The IWA group recognized that the specifics of these elements are dependent upon the event, geographic location, and societal and physical infrastructures.

Attendance at this conference was very worthwhile and participation in international emergency preparedness and response conferences should be continued. This conference did not specifically address radiological emergency preparedness, however, the key elements to any emergency preparedness program are the same. It is important that the NRC be aware of ongoing actions within the international preparedness community as well as learn from the programs in-place in other countries. The draft recommendations of this IWA Working Group will be sent to participants for review.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC The staff will continue to follow the development of the ISO IWA on Emergency Preparedness.

Points for Commission Consideration/Items of Interest The ISO TCM 223 "Societal Risks" is part of the larger ISO Technical Board Strategic Advisory Group on Security. This board has made recommendations in the area of security:

1. Threat (Vulnerability) Assessment;
2. Develop a repository of security standards;
3. Infrastructure protection specifically related to new construction design.

There will be a meeting of ISO TCM 85 on Nuclear Emergency Preparedness in Ottawa, Canada, June 19, 2006. The focus of this meeting is in integrating emergency preparedness and security.

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