



SUSTAINING SAFE NUCLEAR OPERATIONS IN AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

NRC Pandemic Flu Workshop

April 27, 2006

Scope: The workshop will address potential effects of an influenza pandemic on the operations of nuclear facilities when the supply of essential electrical power is already stressed.

Objectives: To determine the issues affecting electricity production and security that NRC and facility operators can anticipate from a rapidly spreading pandemic, and to determine what actions NRC might need to take on an emergency basis to assure that safety, security, emergency preparedness, and reliable electricity production are all maintained.

Date: April 27, 2006

Times: 9 am to 4:30 pm with 1 hour for lunch

Location: Auditorium, NRC HQ, 11555 Rockville, Pike, Rockville, MD

Program:

- 9:00 Welcome and introduction: Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield
- 9:10 Objectives and ground rules: Melvyn Leach, Deputy Director for Incident Response, NSIR. Melvyn Leach is also the workshop facilitator/moderator.
- 9:20 Scenario description: Stephen A. McGuire, Sr. Emergency Response Coordinator, NSIR (additional scenario injects will be provided throughout the workshop)

9:30 **Panel 1:** What steps should licensees take early in a flu pandemic to minimize disruption? (Is sequestering workers a practical or workable approach? Use of masks and other protective equipment? Use of work station disinfectant and cleaning? Use of telecommuting for critical workers who do not need to be on-site? Would nuclear facilities expect that NRC resident inspectors would be sequestered?)

Panelists: Steve Babczak, PPL
Mike Korsnick, Constellation
Ray Landis, Excelon
Gabe Fugate, Callaway
Felix Killar, NEI
Marsha Gamberoni, NRC/Region 1
Kriss Kennedy, NRC/Region 4
Deborah A. Levy, PhD, MPH, HHS/CDC
Marian Warwick, MD, DHS
Dr. Claude Cadoux, MD

10:30 **Panel 2:** If vaccines and antiviral medicines were available in only very limited supplies, who would need to receive them to assure the continued safe operation of the facility?

Panelists: Vernon Higaki, FENOC
Frank Garrett, APS
Chris Burton, Progress Energy
Felix Killar, NEI
Jay Bontrager, OPPD
Edwin Hackett, NRC/NRR
Marian Warwick, MD, DHS
Deborah A. Levy, PhD, MPH, HHS/CDC
Dr. Claude Cadoux, MD

11:15 **Panel 3:** If plants encountered absenteeism rates (20, 30, 40%), what relief would they need in terms of operations staffing and work hour restrictions to maintain the safe operation of the facility? (Required numbers of reactor operators? Diminished emergency response organization? Reduced maintenance and surveillance activities? Exceeding normal work hour limits? Rapidly re-licensing individuals who had been reactor operators?)

Panelists: Mark Geckle, Constellation
Barry Marks, TVA
Felix Killar, NEI
Ed Hackett, NRC/NRR
Nader Mamish, NRC/NSIR
Neal Okeefe, NRC/NRR/Operator Licensing
Steve Laur, NRC/NRR/PRA

Gary Janosko, NRC/NMSS
Tom Bowe, PJM Grid Operators

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Panel 4:** How would NRC maintain the capability to: Respond to an emergency? Conduct inspections? Respond to requests for regulatory relief? How could NOEDs be issued? Could blanket NOEDs be issued? Can the NRC be assured of safety with significantly reduced plant inspections? How would it be explained to the public?

Panelists: Edwin Hackett, NRC/NRR
Mel Leach, NRC Emergency Operations Center
Holly Harrington, NRC public affairs
Kathy Gibson, NRC/HR
Chris Nolan, NRC/OE
Kriss Kennedy, NRC/Region 4

1:45 **Panel 5:** Would high absenteeism adversely affect security staffing levels? What relief might be requested? What contingency measures are available? (Required number of security officers.)

Panelists Ray Landis, Excelon
David Burgin, PSEG
Jerry Sims, SNC
Vonna Ordaz, NSIR/DSP
Scott Morris, NSIR/DSP
DOD

2:30 **Panel 6:** How would a high absenteeism rate among State and local emergency responders impact their capability to respond to an emergency? How would NRC/FEMA consider this? What should be done to sustain the power grid?

Panelists: Chris Burton, Progress
Craig Conklin, DHS
Alwyn C. Settles, Illinois EMA
John Angil, Vermont Emergency Management
Tony McMurtray, NRC/NSIR/EPD
Roland Lickus, NRC/Region 3/State Liaison Officer
Tom Bowe, PJM grid operators

3:30 **Panel 7:** Wrap-up - Summary, conclusions, and lessons learned.

Panelists: Panel chair from each previous panel

4:15 Closing remarks, Melvyn Leach

4:30 End of workshop

Chronologists: Mary Jane Ross-Lee, NRC/NMSS
David Gamberoni, NRC/NSIR