

Track of Interest: Key Interfaces and Communications Expectations

1. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) reports a Track of Interest (TOI) to the NRC Headquarters Operations Center (HOC).
2. The Headquarters Operations Officers (HOOs) obtain and record key event information and engage in discussions necessary to understand the potential threat and safety implications.
3. Once it has been determined that the information received is valid, the HOOs immediately notify the affected nuclear power plant (NPP) control room(s) via the emergency notification system (ENS) phone line:
 - a. If the call to the HOC from NORAD originates over a non-secure line, NORAD and the licensee would be transferred to the NRC teleconferencing bridge and NORAD would be requested to brief licensee on the situation and significance of the event.
 - b. If the call to the HOC from NORAD originates over a secure telephone, or if NORAD discontinues communications, then the HOO will provide the threat information (supplied by NORAD) directly to the licensee.
 - c. The licensee should initiate actions to validate the call in accordance with the NRC Security Advisory SA-07-01 (Rev. 1), dated June 25, 2007.

An example of this communication is provided below.

"This is the Headquarters Operations Officer with notification of a possible aircraft threat to your facility, authentication code CDEC.

At 1000 hrs. EDT, the NRC was notified of a fully-loaded 767 cargo aircraft that deviated from its flight plan and remains unresponsive to air traffic controllers.

We have no specific intelligence, but your facility does lie in the path of this aircraft. At its current speed and altitude, we estimate the aircraft will arrive at your facility from the (north / south / east / west) in approximately XXX minutes.

The NRC requests that your staff assess this information and initiate actions that are consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public and the environment."

NOTE: As discussed in Supplement 1 to Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2004-15, "Emergency Preparedness Issues: Post 9/11" dated May 25, 2006, if the aircraft threat is imminent, the HOO would request that the licensee maintain an open line of communications. This would allow the NRC to provide guidance and additional information as it becomes available and to give the licensee timely updates on the event, which may affect its response actions.

Enclosure

4. The HOO initiates a “blast dial” to select NRC Senior Managers and will transfer the first manager responding onto the NRC teleconferencing bridge. Subsequently, the NRC Chairman (or his designee) is contacted, briefed on the track of interest, and transferred to the NRC teleconferencing bridge.
5. The HOOs also notify NPP control rooms geographically clustered around the affected NPP site (100 mile radius) of the information received.
6. Based on subsequent information provided by NORAD, the HOO provides further updates to the affected NPP control room(s).

An example of this communication is provided below.

“This is the NRC. The aircraft is currently XXX minutes (north / south / east / west) of your facility. It is still un-responsive to FAA direction, but intercept aircraft have just come into visual range and are attempting to communicate with the pilot.”

7. The NRC and respective Regional Office(s) enter their appropriate response posture to effectively respond to the incident.