



National Response Framework and State Interface

Sally Billings
Exercise and Interagency Coordination
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response



Roles and Responsibilities Under the NRF

- NRC is the “Coordinating Agency” for nuclear / radiological incidents involving NRC-licensed facilities or materials
- The Department of Homeland Security will coordinate the overall Federal response
- NRC has the technical lead for the Federal Response



NRC's Responsibilities

As Coordinating Agency, the NRC

- Performs independent assessment of incident / radiological impact
- Provides oversight of the licensee's response
- Dispatches an NRC Site Team, if appropriate
- May take control of special nuclear materials and/or the operation of certain facilities regulated by the NRC



NRC's Responsibilities (Continued)

- NRC would offer assistance to State officials
 - Coordinated via the NRC State Liaison staff in the State's Emergency Operations Center
 - Includes a telephone call between the NRC's Executive Team Director and State decision-maker
- Provides information to Executive and Legislative branches of Federal Government
- Maintains communication with the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal partners
- Keeps news media and public informed



NRC's Incident Response Program

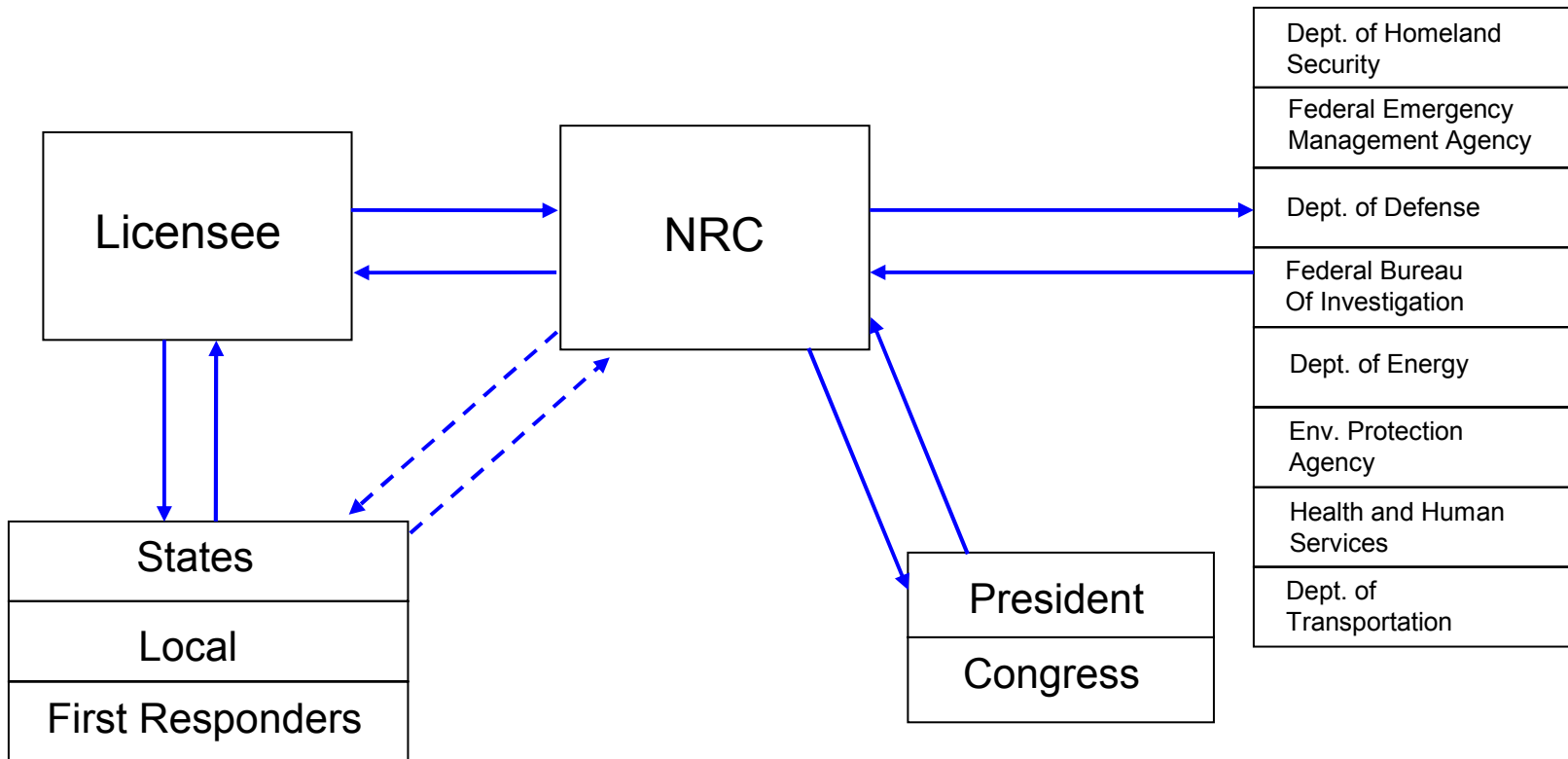
- Headquarters Operations Officers (routine 24/7 coverage)
- Regional Base and Site Response Teams
- Headquarters Executive Team – Lead by the Chairman or designee
 - Supervises overall agency response
 - Communicates with Federal partners, Congress, White House
- Headquarters and Regional Assessment Teams
 - Reactor Safety Team (Reactor Events)
 - Fuel Cycle Safety Team (Special Nuclear Material Events)
 - Safeguards Team
 - Protective Measures Team



NRC's Incident Response Program (Continued)

- Headquarters and Regional Support & Communications Teams
 - Status Officer Team
 - Liaison Team
 - News Center Team
 - Operations Support Team

Communications



All maintain communications with media and public



Incident Response Roles

- Licensee Responsibilities
 - Mitigate the accident and its consequences
 - Properly classify and notify offsite officials of the event
 - Prepare and communicate Protective Action Recommendations (PARs) to State and, where applicable, local officials



Incident Response Roles (Continued)

- State/Local Responsibilities
 - Activate resources to ensure protection of public health and safety
 - Evaluate licensee's Protective Action Recommendations
 - Implement appropriate protective actions for public safety
 - Shelter-in-place
 - Evacuation (Including reception-mass care)
 - Special Populations
 - Food controls and embargos
 - Lactating animals
 - Relocation/Re-entry



NRC – State Decision-Maker Call

- The NRC’s Executive Team would like to communicate with the State decision maker
 - Why: NRC-State interface is vital for an effective and coordinated response to a nuclear/radiological incident involving an NRC-licensed facility or material
 - Time: This should be a ~10 minute conversation and usually occurs after the licensee has declared a Site Area Emergency but at a time which least impacts the State
 - Method: These discussions should be coordinated through the NRC Liaison at the State Emergency Operations Center to minimize impact to the decision-maker



Typical Discussion Topics

- State - licensee concerns
 - Do you (the State) have any concerns with the licensees actions (communications, PARs etc.) so far?
 - Do you have any concerns about the licensee response?
- NRC licensee assessment
 - Provide our assessment of the licensee response (command and control, procedure compliance, priorities)
- General assistance offer
 - Can we be of assistance to the State in any way?
 - Are your teams getting sufficient field data from FRMAC or elsewhere?
 - Do you have problems with Federal coordination?
 - Are you considering/ taking any protective actions?
 - Do you need Federal assistance at this time?
 - How can the NRC help?



Federal Assistance to the States

- The State decides what Federal assistance it needs and how it will get it
 - The State may determine they have no need for Federal assistance
 - The State may request assistance directly through FEMA or another Federal Agency
 - The State may request assistance through the Coordinating Agency (NRC)
 - Once established, all Federal assistance is coordinated through the Joint Field Office (FEMA)



NRC State Outreach Initiatives

Prior to Full Participation Exercise, NRC

- Conducts initial outreach with the State
- Conducts training with all NRC communicators on appropriate communication protocols
- Invites applicable State officials to observe an NRC Full Participation Exercise prior to that State's exercise
 - Participate in a “Meet & Greet” activity with NRC management and staff to discuss protocols and procedures for communications
 - Observe exercise conducted at NRC Headquarters
 - Actively participate in exercise critique
 - The NRC welcomes suggestions or critique items from State officials following each Full Participation Exercise



Questions

???



Contact Information

Sally Billings

Exercise and Interagency Coordination

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

301-415-6412

sab3@nrc.gov or

Sally.Billings@nrc.gov (after January)