ERDS Modernization Newsletter

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM **Project activities during Mar, Apr, May 2008**

June 16, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 5

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Special Interest Article:

The ERDS Quarterly Test schedule was modified to improve testing efficiency based on Phase I's ability to accommodate as many as 16-simultaneous plant connections. This allows the quarterly tests to be completed during the first month of each quarter. All scheduled quarterly tests are conducted between 10:30am - 12:30pm (ET) Tuesday - Thursday. Prior to conducting a planned quarterly test, the licensee will initiate a telephone call to the NRC between 10:00am -10:30am (ET). A quarterly test schedule with specific test dates will be provided to licensees in advance of the test period. If a retest is required, it will be scheduled at a time that is mutually agreed upon between NRC and the licensee. The ERDS project team provides support during normal working hours via the following support phone number:

ERDS Support (301) 415-0467

ERDS User Training:

The ERDS user training that initially started in Nov 2007 and continued through Feb 2008 was successfully completed. As the project moves ahead, additional training, utilizing both face-to-face and webinar formats, will be offered to NRC and State users.

Project Spotlight

Phase II Design 1

Highlight

Industry Update 1

Project Highlights

Phase II Prototype 2

Communication Corner

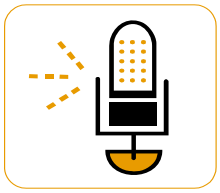
ERDS Mailbox 2
ERDS Digital Certificates 2
NRC Staff Reminder 2
Project Performance 2

Project Spotlight: Phase II Design

The ERDS project team successfully cut-over to the new ERDS on March 3, 2008 at which time Modernized ERDS became the primary system while Legacy ERDS remained available as the backup system. The first week in March, the project team held a kick-off meeting to introduce new activities and requirements established in the ERDS maintenance contract.

During April and May, the project team focused on the Phase II design for the roll-out of an Internet Protocol (IP) communication network. The project team began to conduct internal reviews of the ERDS Phase II design document with the NRC Office of Information Services (OIS). OIS provided valuable insights and recommendations which were incorporated into the ERDS design. A follow-up meeting with OIS was conducted on April 30th to discuss the technical details of deploying a hardware based virtual private network (VPN) within the NRC's production environment.

In May, the ERDS Phase II Final Design document was distributed to (OIS), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and various members of the Nuclear Information Technology Strategic Leadership (NITSL) group for review and comment. No significant issues were provided by these groups and the Phase II final design document was presented to the system owner on May 15 for review and approval. On May 21st the project team received approval from the system owner to proceed with the Phase II design.



Highlight: Industry Update

During April 2008, the ERDS project team conducted conference calls with the Nuclear Energy Institute, and members of the Nuclear Information Technology Strategic Leadership (NITSL) group to review the ERDS Phase II design. Members were given the opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions. The initial ERDS Phase II design efforts focused on defining the prototype and indentifying potential participants. The project team working with NITSL members identified three prototype candidates: Progress Energy, Exelon Nuclear Corporation, and Tennessee Valley Authority. Conference calls regarding the prototype were held with the Licensee volunteers to discuss configuration and schedule issues.

Project Highlights: Phase II Prototype

As the ERDS Modernization effort moves forward, the project team plans to complete all validation testing with licensees on the production systems and simulators by June 30th. Upon successful completion of validation testing the legacy ERDS will start a 120-day transition leading to a complete decommissioning.

The Phase II prototype will be used for proof of concept for the ERDS Phase II design. Specifically, the prototype will be used to validate the concept of establishing a virtual private network (VPN) between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) headquarters and/or Region IV, and nuclear plants over the public internet.

The project team has initiated the acquisition process to procure hardware and software necessary to validate the proof of concept for the Phase II prototype.

The project team will continue discussions with the NRC Office of Information Services, NEI, NITSL, and the licensee prototype volunteers regarding the Phase II Prototype schedule, data transmission methods, IT security requirements, prototype equipment deployment logistics, and industry concerns and issues.

The project team will present the following at the upcoming NITSL conference to be held in Seattle, Washington on July 22-24, 2008:

- The current status of ERDS Modernization
- Brief overview of the Phase II IP communications "roll-out" which is planned to begin in FY 2009 (September, '08)
- Final transition to the Modernized ERDS and decommissioning of the Legacy ERDS

ERDS PHASE II: TASKS/MILESTONES

TASKS / MILESTONES	Complete?
Final Design	Yes
Acquire HW / SW	No
Receive HW/SW	No
Construct System	No
Harden System	No
System Test and Evaluation	No
Submit Final ATO Package	No
Receive ATO	No

ERDS Project Manager

Mr. Roberto Figueroa, Information Technology (IT) Specialist in the NRC Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response has replaced Tom Kardaras as the ERDS Project Manager. With over 18 years of IT experience, Mr. Figueroa currently manages several areas of the NRC's emergency response programs. His responsibilities include managing NRC's Emergency Telecomm System (ETS), Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) and the Operations Center Information Management System (OCIMS).

Communications Corner:

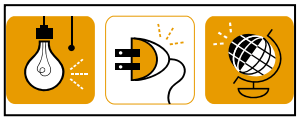
ERDS stakeholders that need to communicate with the ERDS Project Team are encouraged to send their inquiries to ERDS@nrc.gov.

ERDS Digital Certificates:

Digital certificates are required in order to access ERDS via the web. Digital certificates are not required when accessing ERDS through client workstations at NRC facilities. Currently, digital certificates are being issued to State users only. However, when NRC users are granted permission to access the ERDS web client they will need to obtain a digital certification through their IT coordinator. This certificate is commonly referred to as the CITRIX broadband certificate.

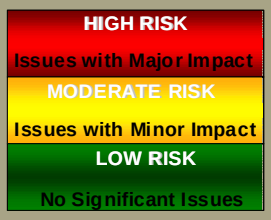
NRC staff:

Please remember that all previous ERDS Newsletters, along with this one, can be Downloaded from the NSIR homepage. Just click on the link called, ERDS Newsletters, Which is located under the heading called, Documents.



PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Operating with minor issues



Project Performance will continue to remain Moderate until all implementation activities related to the second phase solution are completed.

Milestones to be completed between Jun-Aug 2008

ERDS Phase 2

* Technical Documents
* Final Design
Hardware Procurement
Prototype
Authority to Operate

** Denotes the milestone is completed*
*** Denotes the milestone was rescheduled*