



Communication and Coordination Protocol for Determining the Status of Offsite Emergency Preparedness Following a Natural Disaster, Malevolent Act, or Extended Plant Shutdown

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Background

- FEMA Disaster Initiated Reviews (DIRs) have been successfully used, in coordination with NRC, to reaffirm offsite radiological emergency preparedness capabilities.
 - Extensive experience in NRC Regions 2 and 4 for hurricanes, large fires (San Onofre), etc.
- Recent severe weather events in other NRC Regions (involving no or short notice) have focus on the desire to engage FEMA on:
 - Re-evaluating communication and coordination protocols; and
 - Providing training for State/local response organizations, NRC/FEMA staff, and licensees on DIR process.

FEMA/NRC Memorandum of Understanding

■ Section I, “Recovery From Disasters Affecting Offsite Emergency Preparedness”

“...destroy roads, buildings, communications, transportation resources or other offsite infrastructure in the vicinity of a nuclear power can degrade the capabilities of offsite emergency response organizations in the 10-mile emergency planning zone”

➤ *Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, major fires, etc.*

*“If a disaster damages the area around a licensed operating nuclear power plant to an extent FEMA seriously questions the continued adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness, **FEMA will inform the NRC promptly.**”*

FEMA/NRC MOU (Cont'd)

- Section I, “Recovery From Disasters Affecting Offsite Emergency Preparedness”

“If FEMA concludes that a disaster initiated review of offsite radiological emergency preparedness is necessary to determine if offsite emergency preparedness is still adequate, it will...

- *inform the NRC in writing, as soon as practicable, including schedule a schedule for conduct of the review.”*

FEMA/NRC MOU (Cont'd)

- Section I, “Recovery From Disasters Affecting Offsite Emergency Preparedness”

“The disaster initiated review [DIR] is performed to reaffirm the radiological emergency preparedness capabilities of affected offsite jurisdictions located in the 10-mile emergency planning zone and is not intended to be a comprehensive review of offsite plans and preparedness.”

- **Conduct of DIR and evaluation of findings from a DIR is the responsibility of FEMA.**
- *NRC a participant on DIR evaluation team in support of FEMA.*

Per MOU, FEMA will provide a final written report on the status of its review, as well as interim written reports as appropriate.

FEMA/NRC MOU (Cont'd)

- Section I, “Recovery From Disasters Affecting Offsite Emergency Preparedness”

“The NRC will consider information provided by FEMA Headquarters and pertinent findings from FEMA’s disaster initiated review in making decisions regarding the restart or continued operation of an affected operating nuclear power reactor.”

NRC responsible to:

- *Notify FEMA Headquarters, in writing, of the schedule for restart of an affected reactor, and*
- *Keep FEMA Headquarters informed of changes in that schedule.*

Communication and Coordination

NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (MC) 1601

- Identify NRC groups or individuals responsible for monitoring licensee restart activities;
 - Identify FEMA contacts who can provide information on offsite conditions;
 - Establish communication links for coordinating information between the various organizations involved in plant restart and offsite recovery; and
 - Facilitate tracking of restart assessment activities.
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- **Intended to ensure effective communication and coordination between NRC and FEMA**
 - **Does NOT establish or direct FEMA activities.**