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Protecting People and the Environment

Emergency Preparedness & Response News

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Emergency Preparedness Rulemaking Update

Current Status

The Emergency Preparedness rulemaking effort continues to meet scheduled milestones. On October 8, 2010, the draft emergency preparedness (EP) final rule and supporting guidance documents were provided to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and made available to the public. They can be found on www.regulations.gov, Docket ID NRC-2008-0122.

On November 1, 2010 staff from the NRC and FEMA participated in an ACRS subcommittee meeting, where the proposed draft final rule and supporting guidance documents were presented and discussed. NRC and FEMA staff are currently scheduled to present to the full ACRS committee on January 14, 2011.

On November 15, 2010, NRC and FEMA staff conducted a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland to discuss the proposed implementation dates of the draft EP final rule. This meeting provided stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed implementation dates for the EP rule topics and any challenges associated with meeting these dates. The meeting was well attended by the industry and State and local government representatives. The NRC staff received valuable feedback on the proposed implementation dates for consideration prior to submittal of the draft final rule to the Commission.

Next Steps

After making any necessary changes as a result of the ACRS meeting on January 14, 2011, staff will submit the final draft EP rule package to the Commission. Upon approval by the Commission, the final rule will be published in the Federal Register.

The NRC and FEMA will present a series of workshops to involved stakeholders on the implementation of the final EP rule and guidance following publication.

Documents related to the November 15th Public Meeting on the proposed implementation dates can be found in ADAMS under ML102770561 or on www.regulations.gov, Docket ID: NRC-2008-0122

Save the Date!

NRC and FEMA Plan to Host Public Meetings on the Format of Proposed Implementation Workshops for the EP Final Rule

When available, the notices for the meetings will be posted to http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm. If you are on the distribution for this newsletter, you will also receive a copy of the meeting notices via e-mail.

Arlington, TX*

January 25, 2011

7:00—9:00 p.m. CST

Saratoga Springs, NY*

February 1, 2011

4:30—6:30 p.m. EST

Teleconferencing will be available for both meetings.

***Dates, times, and locations are tentative**

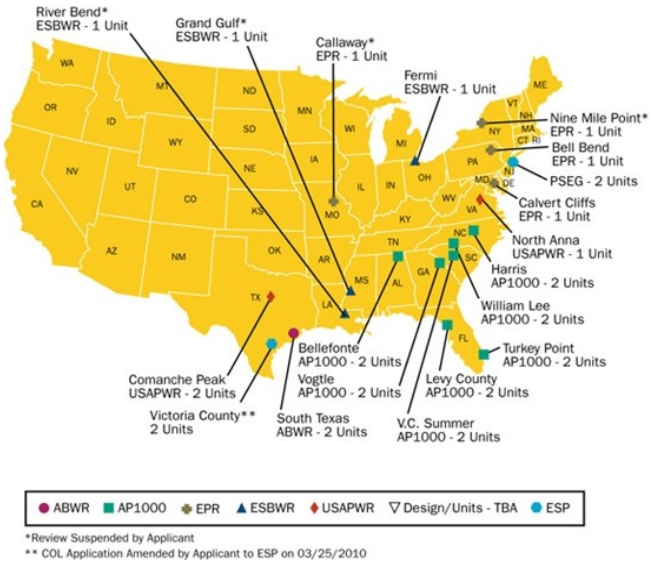
Reviews of New Reactor Applications

Current Status

Progress continues in efforts to review emergency preparedness portions of new reactor applications.

The NRC and FEMA staff continue to review Early Site Permits (ESPs) and Combined License (COL) applications regarding onsite and offsite emergency plans. Emergency planning is contained in the safety portion of the ESP/COL application, and the review focuses on the 16 planning standards in 10 CFR 50.47 and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

The NRC has docketed 17 COL applications since September 2007. Of these 17 COL applications, there are eight single-unit sites and nine dual-unit sites. Fourteen of the COL applications would build at sites that currently have existing nuclear power plants; three others have applied to build at new locations. The NRC is also reviewing two ESP applications. Four ESPs have already been issued.



Locations of projected new nuclear power reactors (As of 12/1/2010)

New Initiative

There is increasing interest in the realm of small modular reactors. Small modular reactor designers are developing a number of light-water reactor and non-light-water reactor designs employing innovative solutions to technical nuclear power issues. These designs could be used for generating electricity in isolated areas or producing high-temperature process heat for industrial purposes.

The staff is currently developing policy issues for Commission review and direction.

NUREG/CR Documents on Emergency Communications

The NRC intends to publish two NUREG/CR documents about emergency communications.

The first, NUREG/CR-7032, is titled "Developing an Emergency Risk Communication (ERC)/Joint Information Center (JIC) Plan for a Radiological Emergency." The second document, NUREG/CR-7033, is titled "Guidance on Developing Effective Radiological Risk Communication Messages: Effective Message Mapping and Risk Communication with the Public in Nuclear Plant Emergency Planning Zones."

Both documents were prepared by Dr. Vincent Covello of the Center for Risk Communication. NRC staff members involved with the project were Patricia Milligan and Annette Stang.

At press time for this newsletter, the documents were not yet publically released; however, check the website http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/ and look for NUREG/CR-7032 and NUREG/CR-7033. Both documents should be available in early 2011. You can also email us at Emergencypreparedness.resource@nrc.gov to check the status of the NUREG/CR publications.

If you would like to be added to this newsletter distribution, please contact:

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