

Risk Informing Emergency Preparedness Oversight Performance Based Offsite Response Organization Evaluation

Objective

In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the staff intends to initiate a study of performance based evaluation techniques that could be used for offsite response organization emergency response programs. This effort will also identify how radiological emergency response program elements could be integrated with nation-wide FEMA preparedness initiatives. The staff has already developed a conceptual performance based regulatory regimen for onsite emergency preparedness (EP) and the study of offsite EP oversight will support efforts to develop an overall risk informed and performance based regulatory regimen. The study will provide insights for Commission consideration in determining whether the EP regulatory regimen should be enhanced.

Applications

This study will help determine the potential for a risk informed and performance based regulatory regimen for offsite nuclear plant EP. It will complement the concept already developed for onsite EP. State and local emergency response programs have significantly matured since the EP regulations of 1980 were implemented. FEMA has initiated several nation-wide preparedness efforts and the level of capability has greatly advanced. The effectiveness and efficiency of EP oversight may be improved by integrating radiological emergency response programs with the broader FEMA preparedness initiatives.

Approach

Retain a knowledgeable consultant to review FEMA evaluation techniques and NRC regulations that apply to offsite response organizations. Propose elements of the evaluation that could be performance based. Examine FEMA preparedness programs that may duplicate or parallel NRC EP requirements and propose methods for integration.

Progress

Coordination with FEMA on a scope of work began in early 2010 and has been completed. The NRC contracting process began in the fourth quarter of 2011. Contracting has proved difficult and reallocation of resources to support NRC response to Fukushima delayed the project. Options are being pursued, but completion in 2013 is not assured. The study results are expected to support regulatory improvements whether or not an enhanced EP regulatory regimen is pursued.