

EPFAQ 2012-005 Draft Response

Question:

"What is the timeline for the implementation of protective action recommendations per the revised NUREG-0654, Supplement 3 following the ETE 180 day review period?"

NRC Draft Response:

The guidance of Supplement 3 provides an acceptable method to comply with Appendix E to Part 50, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section IV, paragraph 3 in the use of evacuation time estimates (ETE) in the formulation of protective action recommendations (PARs) for the plume exposure emergency planning zone, and provides guidance for the provisions of 10 CFR 50.47(b)(10) in the development of a range of PARs. Supplement 3 also provides guidance to support the information in NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission finds to be an acceptable method of meeting the requirements in 10 CFR 50.47(b)(7) for the development of a public information program. However, licensees may identify alternative methods of compliance with these requirements.

Notice of the issuance of Supplement 3 to NUREG-0654/FEMA-Rep-1 Rev. 1, titled "Guidance for Protective Action Strategies," was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5, 2011 (76 FR 75771). In the notice, the NRC stated, "Licensees should meet the requirements of Appendix E, Section IV, paragraph 3 as soon as practical following the 180-day period in Appendix E, Section IV, paragraphs 4 and 6." Appendix E, Section IV, paragraphs 4 and 6 require that site evacuation time estimates be updated periodically. The 180 day period begins with submission of the ETE analysis to the NRC. Under Appendix E, Section IV, paragraph 4, licensees are required to provide updated ETE analyses to the NRC by the later of: the date 365 days after the date of the availability of the most recent decennial census data from the U.S. Census Bureau, or December 23, 2012. Under Appendix E, Section IV, paragraph 6, licensees must maintain their ETE analyses beyond the paragraph 4 deadline by providing updated ETE analyses to the NRC within 365 days of determining that the criteria for updating the ETE, located in paragraph 6, have been met.

Each licensee should begin development of emergency plan implementing procedures for site specific protective action strategies when its updated ETE analysis is completed and submitted to the NRC. This process should integrate ETE data with the protective action strategy and includes coordination with offsite response organizations (ORO) for preplanning various decision criteria. Revision of ORO procedures may also be necessary. Additionally, testing of the new strategy in drills and decision maker training should be planned accordingly.

Licensees should demonstrate implementation of the revised protective action recommendation procedures in the next biennial exercise following the year of implementation. Therefore, a licensee that implements revised protective action recommendation procedures in 2013, and has scheduled a biennial exercise in 2013, may delay demonstration until the 2015 exercise,

while a licensee that implements revised protective action recommendation procedures in 2013 with a scheduled biennial exercise in 2014 should demonstrate full implementation during this exercise.

Licensees that cannot implement the ETE-based strategy during the applicable biennial exercise may request an exemption from NRC. Also, the NRC finds acceptable the demonstration of the revised strategy during an exercise that is not expected to require a protective action recommendation.