

## AP1000DCDCEm Resource

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**From:** Marcia Halligan [cocoon@mwt.net]  
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The on-going events at Fukushima demonstrate that nuclear power disasters can result in sustained and far reaching effects. The evacuation of affected populations constitutes a major concern associated with Fukushima and other nuclear disasters. In the United States, emergency planning for nuclear emergencies remained largely static since 1980, when regulations pertaining to emergency planning initially became enacted after the Three Mile Island accident. These outdated plans do not adequately protect the health and safety of United States citizens.

Specifically, the current 10-mile emergency evacuation zone fails to adequately protect people from the effects of ionizing radiation, despite what computer modeling and simulations may demonstrate. The real world experiences of Fukushima and Chernobyl provide direct evidence that radiation releases from nuclear accidents can be greater than computer modeling or simulations suggest. Indeed, the accident at Fukushima resulted in sustained and large releases of radiation for a period of several weeks.

More than 150,000 people evacuated near Fukushima, from as far as 25 miles away--50,000 of those, according to the Associated Press (5/16/12) evacuated from outside the mandatory evacuation zones. Meanwhile, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. State Department recommended that Americans within 50 miles of Fukushima evacuate. Even so, as much as 80% of the airborne radiation released at Fukushima blew directly over the Pacific Ocean, rather than populated areas. The NRC cannot rely on favorable wind patterns to protect the American public.

According to the National Academy of Sciences BEIR VII report, no safe dose of radiation exists. Women and children will be affected more by radiation than men. Evacuation regulations must be protective of those most vulnerable members of the population.

The ingestion pathway EPZ also proves to be grossly inadequate, and should be expanded to 100 miles. Food contamination at both Fukushima and Chernobyl became far reaching and persistent. In Chernobyl, radionuclides tainted crops and animal products hundreds of miles away. More than 25 years after that accident, sheep in Wales--hundreds of miles away--remain interdicted. Similarly, in Fukushima contamination of rice, milk, and other food occurred 100 miles and more from the site.

Current NRC regulations do not require that emergency exercises consider an initiating or concurrent natural disaster that might further complicate accidents and subsequent evacuation efforts. At Fukushima, a natural disaster (coupled with faulty reactor design) initiated the disaster. Both Fukushima and the U.S. experience with Hurricane Katrina demonstrate the difficulties associated with evacuating when a natural disaster strikes that damages or destroys roadways.

Weather patterns grow more extreme and dangerous. In 2011, hurricanes, earthquakes, and flooding caused damage to U.S. nuclear reactors. As such, emergency preparedness drills and exercises should include regionally appropriate natural disasters such as droughts, flooding, blizzards, earthquakes, wildfires, and hurricanes.

For all these reasons I request that the NRC adopt the proposed rule expanding emergency planning zones to the respective 25, 50, and 100 mile zones and add a new requirement that emergency exercises include scenarios of regionally appropriate initiating or concurrent natural disasters.

Thank you,

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