

## **Recommendation 1: Pursue Incremental Approach and Hold Additional Public Meetings**

### **Summary**

Before completing the initial draft Rev. 2 document, FEMA and the NRC should first seek additional stakeholder input from licensee and off-site response organization subject matter experts. NEI recommends an incremental approach structured around the eight designated enhancement areas discussed by FEMA and the NRC at the August and September 2012 public meetings and outlined in a recent Emergency Preparedness and Response Newsletter. The Charter should be revised to accommodate the incremental approach. Additional public meetings should be held to focus on each of these enhancement areas and solicit valuable feedback from the appropriate subject matter experts. This incremental approach would ameliorate concerns about transparency and adequate stakeholder input that arose previously during the revision of the FEMA REP Program Manual.

### **Background on Public Meetings**

FEMA and the NRC conducted public meetings in Kansas City, MO on August 22, 2012 and Rockville, MD on September 13, 2012 to discuss the scope and process of the revision to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 (NUREG).

FEMA and NRC had identified the need for early stakeholder involvement as a lesson learned from the EP rulemaking process and the agency stressed that the final document should reflect input from a broad group of stakeholders (including off-site response organizations, FEMA, NRC and Licensees). To facilitate the focused review, FEMA and NRC framed the discussion around eight "enhancement areas".

During the meetings, NEI identified a number of NUREG sections that required updating and we proposed separate public meetings on each section or combination of sections to solicit input.

*Conclusion: NEI agrees with the approach FEMA and NRC have outlined thus far in the public meetings. FEMA and NRC should now revise their charter and conduct a focused review of the eight enhancement areas in a public meeting setting.*

### **FEMA and NRC Task Force Project Charter**

The current Task Force Project Charter, dated April 10, 2012, states:

#### 1.5 Purpose Statement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will jointly issue this revision to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 1, to provide enhanced guidance for the development, review, and evaluation of NRC nuclear power plant (NPP) licensee and offsite radiological emergency response planning and preparedness surrounding the nation's commercial NPPs.

### 1.7 Scope

It is envisioned the key changes to the document will include: updating existing guidance to reflect the current environment and approaches; incorporating the various supplements and addenda; resolving discrepancies between the FEMA REP Program Manual and recent EP rule changes; and incorporation guidance developed to support the recent EP changes.

### 1.8 Estimated Schedule

Review of stakeholder input	12/14/2012
Initial draft Rev. 2 document development	09/2013
Internal; (NRC/FEMA HQ and regions) review and comment period	03/2014
Draft Rev. 2 document re-write/adjustments	07/2014
FRN for initial distribution of Rev. 2 document for formal public comment	11/2014

*Conclusion: The current charter schedule does not allow for sufficient early involvement by stakeholders and should be amended to accommodate such involvement.*

### **Federal Register Notice**

Federal Register Notice, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev.1), 77 Fed. Reg. 65,700 (October 30, 2012) (Docket ID FEMA-2012-0026)", states:

Summary: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is soliciting comments from stakeholders and interested members of the public on the scope of future revisions to "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plans and Procedures," (NUREG-0654/FEMA –REP-1, Rev. 1. In association with this request for comments, FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held two public meetings on August 22, 2012 and September 13, 2012.

*Conclusion: The Federal Register Notice requests stakeholder written comments on the scope of the revision, yet such input is not actively being solicited for the development of the initial draft content.*

## **Proposed Enhancement Areas**

Emergency Preparedness & Response News, Volume 4, Issue III, proposes 8 enhancement areas:

1. Format & Terminology
2. Engineering
3. Health Physics
4. Policy
5. Operational
6. Training and Implementation
7. Assessments
8. Miscellaneous

Under "How can you participate?" third paragraph:

Please remember that comments should focus on the process and proposed scope of the revision. The opportunity for comments on specific changes to the guidance will be available during the revision process itself.

*Conclusion: NEI agrees that the revision process should include a concurrent opportunity for comment while the document is being drafted. This is preferable to first drafting the document and then soliciting comment afterward. The above eight enhancement areas represent a framework for a fully transparent revision process for the document.*