



FEMA

May 15, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) Staff,  
Regional Assistance Committee (RAC) Chairs, and Federal  
Preparedness Coordinators (FPCs)

FROM: Andrew Mitchell  
Director, Technological Hazards Division (THD)

SUBJECT: New Terms to Classify REPP Exercise-Related Observations and  
Issues

**Purpose:** This memo is to inform Regional Staff that REPP is adopting some new terms and definitions for classifying performance during REPP exercises. These new terms and definitions are effective immediately.

**Background:** In a meeting at the 2015 National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) Conference, the REPP Regional and HQ leadership decided to revise and update the language and definitions for evaluated observations and issues during REPP exercises as follows:

- **Demonstrated Strength:** An observed action, behavior, procedure, and/or practice that is worthy of special notice and positive recognition. NOTE: This is already a common practice that many Regions employ when identifying demonstrated strengths.
- **Level 1 Finding:** An observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a determination that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate protective measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a Nuclear Power Plant (NPP).
- **Level 2 Finding:** An observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that is not considered, by itself, to adversely impact public health and safety.
- **Plan Issue:** An observed or identified inadequacy in the offsite response organizations' (ORO's) emergency plan/implementing procedures, rather than that of the ORO's performance.

**Discussion:** All findings and/or plan issues will be addressed in the Improvement Plan (IP) that is prepared and issued following the exercise. These new classifications will not only retain REPP's high exercise performance and evaluation standards but also serve to better align REPP's exercise program with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) as well as the tenets of the National Preparedness System (NPS). Level 1 Findings will have the same

requirements as the current Deficiency classification, while Level 2 Findings and Plan Issues will be afforded additional HSEEP-compliant avenues for resolution.

These new classifications/definitions will be formally incorporated in the January 2016 revision of the REP Program Manual as well as the Information Technology (IT) tools under development to support the transition to the new classification system. The Exercise Enhancement workgroups, consisting of Headquarters and Regional Staff, will also continue to identify issues and propose solutions to support this transition.

Please feel free to share this information with all of your REPP stakeholders and planning partners. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Vanessa Quinn, REPP Branch Chief, Technological Hazards Division at (202) 646-2849.

cc: THD Headquarters Staff