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POLICY ISSUE

(Information)

November 14, 1991

SECY-91-368

For: The Commissioners

From: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: FEDERAL FIELD EXERCISE 3

Purpose: To inform the Commission of the status of the staff's preparations for the full Federal demonstration of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Berwick, Pennsylvania.

Background: On December 19, 1990, the staff informed the Commissioners of the initial preparations for the Federal Field Exercise 3 (SECY-90-412). At that time, a site had been selected, the NRC had sent a letter to the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) inviting it to host Federal Field Exercise 3 (FFE 3) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was preparing a similar letter to be sent to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Discussion: On February 1, 1991, PP&L accepted the NRC's invitation to host FFE 3; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania accepted on April 4, 1991. On January 10, 1991, representatives from NRC Headquarters, NRC Region I, FEMA Headquarters, FEMA Region III, PP&L, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency met to establish the organization that would plan FFE 3. They formed seven work groups and drafted charters to address

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the following: the radiological scenario; the offsite impact scenario; exercise control and documentation; participant orientation; administration, exercise communications, and logistical arrangements; public affairs and visitor arrangements. Each work group is co-chaired by a Federal government representative and a State or utility representative. Each participating organization is represented on every work group. A steering group, consisting of senior managers of the major organizations, will oversee the planning process.

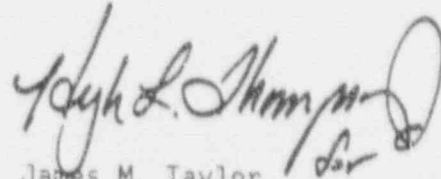
The planning groups have held 21 meetings at which the following major decisions have been made:

- The FFE 3 will take place during the week of February 22-26, 1993.
- Actual play will take place over a 3-day period with some operations lasting 24-hours. This will necessitate at least one shift change for the NRC.
- Seventeen Federal agencies that have signed the FRERP will be invited to participate in FFE 3. The scenario will include activities appropriate for each agency's responsibility.
- All facilities designated in the FRERP will be established. This includes a Federal Response Center operated by FEMA, a Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center operated by the U.S. Department of Energy and a Media Operations Center operated jointly by the utility and the NRC.
- PP&L and Pennsylvania will fully activate their emergency response facilities.
- The major Federal response agencies will fully activate their headquarters, regional, and site response functions.

The planning groups have established a milestone calendar that will be monitored by NRC and PP&L to ensure that the preparations for FFE 3 are successful.

The NRC estimates that the NRC will expend seven FTEs and \$200K for planning and conducting FFE 3. Actual time and resource expenditures are being recorded.

Future Actions: Press releases are being drafted to alert the media to FFE 3 and to invite them to participate. Press conferences, and Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and Congressional briefings are scheduled to inform these groups about the FFE 3.



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