



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution List

FROM:

Charles Miller, NRC

O. Megs Hepler, III, FEMA

Co-Chairs

NRC/FEMA Steering Committee

*Charles J. Miller*

*O. Megs Hepler, III*

SUBJECT:

Minutes for December 16, 1997, NRC/FEMA Steering Committee Meeting

Attached are the minutes for the December 16, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Steering Committee meeting and a copy of the meeting agenda.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Falk Kantor, NRC, at (301) 415-2907, or Ms. Nancy Goldstein, FEMA, at (202) 646-4285.

## Attachments

### Distribution List:

Zalcman, NRC

Kantor, NRC

Barss, NRC

O'Brien, NRC

Goss, FEMA

Reid, FEMA

Martin, FEMA

Husar, FEMA

Atwood, FEMA

Austin, FEMA

McNutt, FEMA

Goldstein, FEMA

Chan, FEMA

FEMA Regional Assistance Committee Chairs

FEMA REP Staff

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## NRC/FEMA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Room 331, FEMA Headquarters

December 16, 1997

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Steering Committee meeting was held on December 16, 1997, at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, DC. Attendees were as follows:

| <u>NRC</u>  | <u>FEMA</u>  |
|-------------|--------------|
| C. Miller   | M. Hepler    |
| B. Zalcrnan | I. Husar     |
| F. Kantor   | N. Goldstein |
| D. Barss    | M. Wyche     |
| J. O'Brien  |              |

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Projected Shortfalls in FEMA's Fiscal Year 1998 Budget and Potential Implications for Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program Support

FEMA stated that there is a serious shortfall of REP travel funds for this fiscal year. Letters to Director Witt addressing this issue are in preparation. As a consequence of this shortfall, there is not enough travel money to conduct all the REP biennial exercises scheduled for FY 1998. The NRC asked how this shortage squares with the user fees collected from the utilities. FEMA pointed out that the user fee money goes to the General Treasury, not to FEMA. FEMA's appropriations language for FY 1999 will speak to this issue by requesting new REP budget autonomy. FEMA and the NRC then discussed a number of options for dealing with the current budget crisis, including scaling back the size of the exercise evaluation teams; postponing some exercises scheduled for FY 98 until the first quarter of FY 1999 (the exercises would still meet the calendar year requirement); giving credit to offsite response organizations for responses to real-life incidents; and having the NRC assist FEMA in evaluating offsite exercises. FEMA also addressed the shortage in travel funds for other important REP Program activities, such as the FEMA REP All-Hands meeting and a Strategic Review Steering Committee meeting; meetings of the Regional Assistance Committee Advisory Committee; and Regional scheduling meetings. FEMA further stated that FEMA's Regional staffs were opposed to rescheduling any of the exercises and to having anything less than a face-to-face REP All-Hands meeting in connection with the REP Program Strategic Review. FEMA will keep in touch with the NRC on this situation.

## 2. Impact of Decommissioning on Emergency Planning

- **Big Rock Point - Lessons Learned:** Big Rock Point is being decommissioned and the licensee has requested an exemption to move the 1997 exercise to the first quarter of 1998 and a second exemption to eliminate the need for offsite radiological emergency plans. Lessons learned from the processing of these requests include (a) the types of radiological incidents that are of concern in the decommissioned state include a rapid oxidation of zirconium cladding around spent fuel (termed "zirc fire") and a resin fire; (b) the potential for a zirc fire expires after the fuel has decayed for a given period of time (about seven months for boiling water reactors, according to an analysis performed for the NRC); and (c) the NRC and FEMA need to coordinate early on for these types of exemption requests, particularly in light of the number of organizations involved (FEMA Headquarters and Region, NRC Headquarters and Region, State government, and nuclear power plant licensee). In the case of Big Rock Point, FEMA will provide the NRC its analysis of offsite emergency preparedness (EP) in support of the requested exercise exemption. The licensee is working with the State to develop a scenario that reflects the potential accidents associated with the defueled status of the plant. In addition, FEMA Headquarters has specified that all core objectives must be evaluated and all outstanding exercise issues corrected. The FEMA Region, in coordination with the State and licensee, will determine the mechanism for accomplishing this.
- **NRC Rulemaking on EP for Permanently Shut-down Plants:** Current regulations for EP do not take into consideration the reduced consequences associated with permanently shut-down nuclear power plants. To address this, proposed rule language is being drafted to be added to 10 CFR 50.47. The proposed rule will be consistent with existing requirements that are applicable for operating reactors, storage of spent fuel (10 CFR 72), and possession of byproduct material (10 CFR 30). A Commission paper, SECY 97-120, provides the basic framework for the proposed rulemaking. This effort is also consistent with ongoing changes to the rules concerning financial protection requirements. The proposed EP requirements would address three different levels of spent fuel characteristics and storage modes. For level 1, all fuel is out of the reactor and the spent fuel in the spent fuel pool is susceptible to a zirc fire if the spent fuel pool is drained accidentally. In level 1, onsite and offsite EP would remain generally consistent with current requirements for operating reactors. For level 2, either spent fuel in the spent fuel pool is no longer susceptible to a zirc fire or gap release caused by fuel cladding failure if the spent fuel pool is drained accidentally, or all spent fuel has been removed offsite or stored onsite in dry storage. Level 2 will continue at the site as long as the onsite inventory of radioactive material is equal to or above the quantities specified in 10 CFR 30.72, "Schedule C." Entrance to level 2 is permitted when it has been determined that no member of the public would be exposed to doses in excess of Environmental Protection Agency protective action guides in the event of a release from a design basis accident. While in level 2, EP requirements consistent with those found in 10 CFR 72.32 would be maintained. For level



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3, the onsite inventory of radioactive material is below quantities specified in 10 CFR 30.72, "Schedule C." No EP requirements would be imposed for this situation. The proposed rule is anticipated to be ready for NRC internal review and office concurrence in late December 1997, or early January 1998. FEMA will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed rulemaking during this period.

- **Status of Defueled Emergency Plans for Haddam Neck and Maine Yankee:**

Haddam Neck - NRC review is nearly complete with the staff waiting for some additional information from the licensee. The defueled emergency plan is expected to be approved and exemption from offsite EP requirements granted within the near future.

Maine Yankee - Maine Yankee has submitted a defueled emergency plan and request for exemption from offsite EP requirements. Maine Yankee has also requested an exemption from performing an offsite exercise in 1998. The review of this submittal is scheduled for January 1998.

3. **Coordination of Federal Participation in Response Exercises**

FEMA discussed the need for better coordination with the NRC with respect to FEMA participation in biennial REP exercises as a responder. In some instances, FEMA Regional offices would have liked to participate more but did not have enough advance notice. The NRC agreed that better coordination is desirable. FEMA did receive an exercise schedule from the NRC Office of Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data and will, if possible, insert the NRC schedule into the National Exercise Schedule. FEMA further recommended that the NRC coordinate its response exercise schedule with the Emergency Support Function Leaders Group (ESFLG) Exercises Subcommittee.

4. **Site Specific issues**

- **San Onofre 2.206 Petition:** The NRC has requested FEMA's assistance in evaluating offsite issues related to Evacuation Time Estimate (ETE) analysis. Arrangements are being made to obtain the services of a former NRC contractor with extensive ETE experience.
- **Davis Besse Alternate Emergency Operations Facility (EOF):** The NRC informed FEMA that a Commission paper is being prepared requesting approval of the licensee's proposed location for the alternate EOF, which is located 27 miles from the plant site.
- **Oyster Creek, Millstone, and Prairie Island:** General discussion of offsite issues.