

Enhancements in EP Drills and Exercises "FEMA Perspective"

U.S. NRC Regulatory Information Conference

March 11, 2008 (Marriott Bethesda, MD)

James Kish
Director, National Exercises Division
National Preparedness Directorate



1

Exercise Task Force

- Joint NRC-FEMA Working Group, includes NRC HQ, FEMA HQ and FEMA Regional representation
- Goals:
 - Identify potential changes to EP regulations/guidance related to exercise scenarios to help avoid preconditioning of participants, while addressing challenges to existing REP programs posed by a hostile action against a nuclear power plant.
 - Outline process (project plan) for revision of EP regulations/guidance, which includes the effective engagement of stakeholders.



2

FEMA REP Program Manual

- Areas where changes are being considered:
 - Event Classification/Non-Sequential Escalation
 - For example: At least one biennial exercise per cycle should involve, at a minimum, initial classification at a Site Area Emergency (SAE), or rapid escalation from an Alert to a SAE
 - Varying release options (magnitude)
 - Varying release conditions (meteorology, duration, type)
 - Spectrum of scenarios:
 - Hostile action-based events
 - Natural phenomenon/all-hazards events (applicable to NPP site)
 - Impact of seasonal conditions



3

Project Plan Provisions

- Proactive engagement of stakeholders in “focus group” forums to provide for open dialogue and to solicit comments and further recommendations on proposed changes.
- Utilize stakeholder groups, such as the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), State Homeland Security Advisors, and others to assist with:
 - Focus group facilitation;
 - Review of comments received; and
 - Recommend further changes to address significant comments
- Use of designated “off-year” hostile action-based drills as pilots
- Periodic FEMA-NRC senior management alignment briefings



4

Additional Opportunities

- Continue to evaluate areas with stakeholders for the effective use of State and local response resources in exercises (while ensuring continued reasonable assurance):
 - Credit for actual events/emergencies
 - Credit for HSEEP commitments



5
