

NEMA  
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Summary  
Feb 18

Members:

- ✓ Richard Flinn (PA)
- ✓ Mark Ghilarducci (CA)
- ✓ Jennifer Ricker (IL)
- ✓ Joe Kelly (MN)
- ✓ Wendy Smith-Reeve (AZ)
- ✓ Mike Sprayberry (NC)
- ✓ Kim Stenson (SC)

Current Initiatives:

1. The subcommittee developed and forwarded recommendations to FEMA on October 25, 2017 as a result of findings from Southern Exposure 15 which was a large-scale ingestion pathway exercise involving federal, state, and local authorities as well as the nuclear industry. FEMA responded to the letter on December 1, 2017. Recommendations, FEMA responses, and subcommittee analysis and follow-on actions are summarized below:

- a. Recommendation: Unified Coordination Group (UCG) membership and composition for a nuclear plant incident is not clearly defined.

FEMA response: The Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA) finalized in 2016 is currently scheduled for a full update to be performed in 2021.

Subcommittee analysis and follow-on actions: Continued discussion is required with FEMA Technological Hazards Division regarding UCG composition prior to the NIRA update.

- b. Recommendation: Policies regarding Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) remediation are not well defined.

FEMA response: The 2017 Protective Action Guides (PAG) Manual contains unified federal guidance on approaches to cleanup and waste management following a radiological incident. The EPA is identified as the coordinating federal agency for the long-term environmental response under the National Response Framework.

Subcommittee analysis and follow-on action: The PAG Manual does not have the level of detail required for LLRW remediation of agriculture and other contaminated material. EPA's role is focused more on long-term strategies and does not address short-term decision-making that would assist in long-term strategies. Where EPA has a major role, there are supporting roles that are not addressed in the manual. Continued discussion regarding LLRW with FEMA Technological Hazards Division and EPA is required.

- c. Recommendation: There are funding gaps related to reimbursement to individuals and government agencies during a nuclear power plant incident.

FEMA response: FEMA stated that the current version of NRIA has been revised to reduce funding gaps.

Subcommittee analysis and follow-on action: Current NRIA guidance is insufficient and continued discussion is required with FEMA Technological Hazards Division. This would include requesting FEMA conduct an overall funding analysis.

- d. Recommendation: State and local governments must be involved in the development of the Plan of Distribution developed at the local level to account for the needs of the population and communities and a comprehensive Recovery Support Strategy for a nuclear power plant incident has not been developed.

FEMA response: FEMA agrees with the recommendation and the NRIA should be updated to reflect more substantive guidance regarding the coordination of a Recovery Support Strategy with the State and other elements of the Unified Coordination Group.

Subcommittee analysis and follow-on action: No further action pending the NRIA update.

- e. There is no central repository of federal agency guidelines, plans, or capabilities.

FEMA response: The FEMA Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Program Office is in the process of creating a CBRN Toolkit which will be placed in the DHS Science and Technology First Responder Community of Practice which will include access to lessons learned, best practices, and unclassified plans.

Subcommittee analysis and follow-on action: No further action pending toolkit development.

2. Develop best practices and lessons learned regarding JIS/JIC Operations during nuclear power plant response and recovery. An initial survey was forwarded to all states with nuclear facilities in coordination with the Public Information Officers but did not provide enough information to develop an in-depth information paper that details best practices and lessons learned. Another survey is being developed in coordination with the PIO workgroup to identify specific areas where the evaluation by States and FEMA are not consistent or standardized.

#### Future Initiatives:

1. Emergency management interface with nuclear utilities during response (ex: NIMS typing).
2. Status of NUREG-0654 (Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants) update.
3. Review of response and recovery agricultural and scientific guidance in view of current capabilities and impacts.