



# National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference, Inc.

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## Session 3: Workshop      **NRC's Role in Emergency Preparedness Regulations, Inspection, and Guidance**

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This four-hour informational workshop is focused on presenting factual and current information about the NRC's emergency preparedness history, regulations, guidance, offsite interface, and inspection program. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- **NRC and the federal government** – An important part of understanding why the NRC takes the actions it does and what authority the NRC has is understanding how the NRC fits into the scheme of federal government. This module is a brief primer on how federal government is structured, how the Commission is comprised, and how politics affects an independent agency.
- **History of emergency preparedness requirements** – Emergency planning concepts and regulations have been developing since the 1950s. The first emergency plans were no more than a few pages of narrative. This module will take a look at the events and controversy that have led to the state of emergency preparedness that is required for today's reactors.
- **Emergency planning zones (EPZs) and emergency action levels (EALs)** – The concepts of EPZs and EALs are fundamental to understanding the NRC's required planning framework. This module will explore the basis for EPZs and explain how EALs bridge the gap from licensees to offsite responders.
- **EP regulations and guidance documents** – The sixteen emergency planning standards will be described in detail – highlighting how they apply to the licensee, as well as offsite responders. Other EP regulations and the pertinent EP guidance documents will be briefly discussed.
- **The EP Reactor Oversight Process** – This module will describe the NRC's inspection framework, the EP performance indicators that the NRC monitors, the baseline inspections performed by NRC EP inspectors, and insights into how significance is placed once a violation is identified.
- **NRC interface with DHS/FEMA** – The relationship between NRC regulating onsite EP and DHS/FEMA overseeing offsite EP will be clarified. Areas of shared responsibility will be detailed, as well as areas where each agency has its individual jurisdiction.
- **Reasonable assurance** – Following the Three Mile Island accident, the Commission declared that "no operating license for a nuclear power reactor will be issued unless a finding is made by the NRC that there is reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency". The concept of reasonable assurance, and what it means to the NRC, as well as the process in which reasonable assurance could be revoked, will be explained.
- **EP/Security Interface** – Following September 11, 2001, the NRC began to take a series of actions to enhance licensees' preparedness framework during a security-initiated event. This module will summarize the enhancements and challenges in a post-9/11 environment.

This workshop will be presented in a classroom-style format, but will entertain multiple opportunities for questions and answers to focus discussion on issues relevant to the audience.

**DATE OFFERED: Monday, April 30, 2007**

**TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**