

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) Conference, Inc.
17th Annual Conference (April 30 – May 3, 2007)

FEDERAL ISSUE SESSION (NRC Part)
Speaker: Kevin Williams, US NRC
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Summary:

Opening Remarks:

The NRC is conducting a variety of activities and while we are conducting these activities, we want to present these activities embracing openness. We want to show a different perspective of NRC headquarters. We recognize the excellent working relationships that exist with the Regions and we want to continue in that vein to enhance the relationships that you have NRC Headquarters. To accomplish this we will work with the Regions and the existing processes to establish partnerships. This is not an attempt to assume any duties or responsibilities from the Regions, FEMA, State, or local organizations. The staff will be more engaging and soliciting input from all Stakeholders.

Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Regulations and Guidance:

The staff conducted a series of meetings to obtain stakeholder input and provided a paper to the Commission. The staff is currently developing a rulemaking plan and will provide it to the Commission. Additional outreach will be conducted; this topic will be discussed in more detail later during the afternoon session.

New Reactor Licensing:

This topic will be discussed later during the conference. However, the staff wanted to inform stakeholders that a public meeting will be held on May 11, 2007 with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss NEI-99-01, revision 5 Emergency Action level (EAL) determinations and NEI 07-01 EALs for new passive reactors. The point of contact for the meeting is Michael Norris who can be contact at 301-415-4098 or mbn@nrc.gov.

NRC Interactions with States:

The NRC recognizes that there have been challenges during drills and exercises when working with the States when the NRC headquarters (HQ) participates. We are working to improve the interactions such that we want to engage States to participate and observe HQ activities. During the latest exercise, we invited a State to observe and provide feedback on the NRC HQ's interactions with the States. What we want to

do is establish partnerships working through the existing process to address this issue. The NRC is looking at conducting four Regional meetings after we work through our internal process and procedures. We need to be cognizant that the NRC and States have distinct roles and responsibilities and we need to partner together to ensure optimum protection of the public and the environment. Key questions are when is it appropriate to contact the State, what information does the NRC need, and what can the NRC offer the State. We want to be open and honest in our conversations, be seen as a tool/resource, and develop opportunities for feedback.

Protective Action Recommendation Study:

The staff conducted focus group meetings around 5 nuclear power plants to determine likely emergency worker response to an emergency event in the post 9/11 environment. The focus groups consisted of emergency workers (police and fire). The conclusion of the study is that emergency workers will report for duty. The staff also noted likely public response. The public noted that they were more likely to follow protective action instructions if they understood what they were being asked to do. Some members of the public will follow these instructions without the need to understand what they are being asked to do. The public prefers to evacuate than shelter. In addition, the infrastructure needs to address the growth in the area when considering evacuation. However, in light of alternate protective action regimens, the staff will be conducting a public telephone survey to determine likely public reaction to the alternate protective action regimens. This will take into account actions such as direction to shelter, direction to evacuate, obtain data regarding shadow evacuations when the public is directed to shelter while others are evacuating, sirens are sounding, or given direction to monitor the situation. The point of contact for the PAR Study is Randy Sullivan who can be contacted at 301-415-1123 or rxs3@nrc.gov.

Public Outreach:

The NRC HQ staff will focus on providing HQ initiated activities to State, local, Tribal, and licensee through outreach efforts using the existing Regional meetings and other venues. In addition, the staff will engage in public outreach by attending conferences/meetings such as the Internal Association of Emergency Management and the special needs population. The staff will engage the Non-Governmental organizations and the general public. The key being strong outreach=strong relationships.

Status of KI:

The staff sent letters regarding a one-time offer to replenish KI to the States. Some states requested information regarding shelf-life extension. Specifically, if the State chooses to extend the KI shelf could they seek replenishment in 2 years; answer is yes. The Health and Human Services in partnership with the NRC is offering liquid

KI. The NRC will assist in the distribution of the liquid KI, it is available now and we will ship it as soon as we receive the request. The liquid KI can be stockpiled at hospitals, congregate care facilities, daycare centers, and prisons. The KI is easy to dose for children and adults. Information regarding KI is available on the public website. The point of contact is Trish Milligan 301-415-2223 or pxm@nrc.gov.