

Emergency Preparedness and Response During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

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Licensee and State/Local Responsibilities

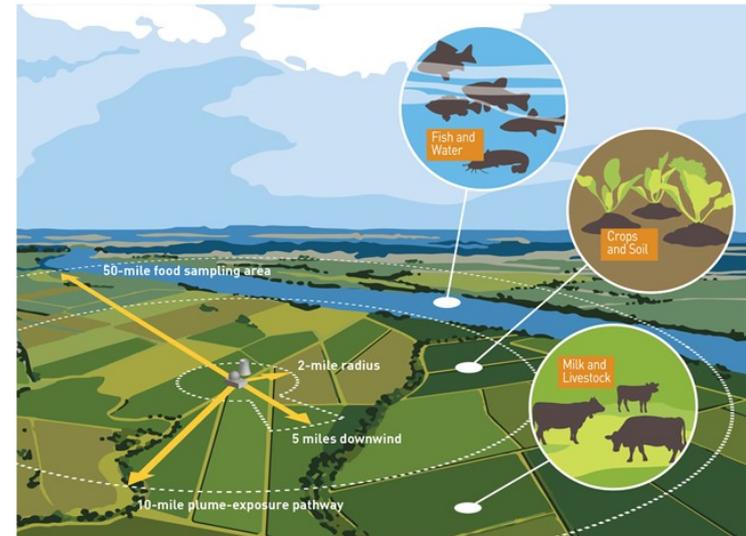
Licensee Responsibilities

- Mitigate the accident and its consequences
- Properly classify and notify offsite officials of the event
- Communicate Protective Action Recommendations



State and Local Responsibilities

- Activate emergency response resources
- Determine and implement protective actions

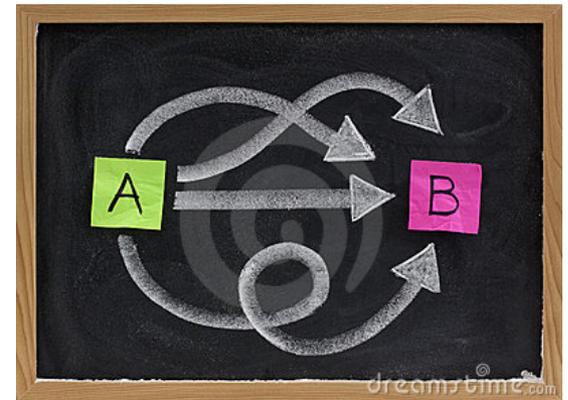


Consideration and Consultation

- Increased resource demands on State and local emergency response organizations to respond to the COVID-19 PHE, as well as providing for public health and safety and the common defense and security.
- NRC has continued to consult with FEMA on the readiness of offsite response organizations.
- FEMA has not identified any weaknesses that would prevent State and local emergency management organizations from responding effectively in event of a radiological emergency at a commercial nuclear power plant.

Emergency Preparedness Challenges

- Licensees' need to implement alternative methods to “staff” an Emergency Response Facility, should a declared radiological event occur.
- COVID-19 impacts on local hospitals
 - Licensees' implementation of temporary alternatives to ‘normal’ methods of ensuring medical response readiness
 - Limit distracting COVID-19 hospitals from PHE response
- Coordination between licensees and offsite response organizations for conducting EP readiness activities



Regulatory Relief

- March 30 – Issued a joint communication¹ with FEMA
- May 14 – Issued a letter² to licensees to provide guidance on seeking exemptions from EP regulations regarding the postponement of EP-evaluated biennial exercises from 2020 to 2021



- May 27 – Issued Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 20-002, Attachment 3³
- September 2 – Issued an Addendum⁴ to the May 14 letter

See Reference slide for footnotes.

Maintenance of Emergency Response Readiness

- Continuous coordination with FEMA
- NRC licensees have a long history of practicing their onsite and offsite Emergency Plans and have continually demonstrated their readiness to respond to a radiological event.
- Current demonstration of State and local response capabilities, in their efforts to combat COVID-19
- Provided status reports on power plant preparations and NRC's oversight activities to the FEMA National Response Coordination Center during Hurricanes Isaias and Laura.

Maintenance of NRC Incident Response

- 24-hour Operations Center remains operational and staffed
- Response staff is adhering to safety protocols
- Incident Response Organization is confident it can continue to:
 - Provide support for offsite officials
 - Keep other agencies, international counterparts and news media informed



Acronyms and References

- EP – Emergency Preparedness
- FEMA – U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
- NRC – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- PHE – Public Health Emergency

¹ Agencywide Documents and Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20085F705

² ADAMS Accession No. ML20120A003

³ ADAMS Accession No. ML20143A066

⁴ ADAMS Accession No. ML20223A152