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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
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Office of Nuclear Security  
& Incident Response  
Division of Preparedness  
& Response

Toll-Free: (800) 368-5642

Phone: (301) 415-7000

E-mail:

[emergencypreparedness.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:emergencypreparedness.resource@nrc.gov)

**Editor:**

Anthony Bowers

**Special Contributors**

**to this Issue:**

Arlon Costa

Patricia Milligan

Sara Mroz

Milt Murray

Eric Schrader

Rebecca Stone

**“CIMS” City: Improving Crisis  
Communication in the Emergency Response  
Community**

Crisis Information Management Software (CIMS) is used by many Federal, State, and local emergency responders to record, manage, and share real-time information during emergencies. Many types of CIMS platforms exist, including WebEOC, OpCenter, and CRISIS™. The NRC Headquarters Operations Center and Regional Incident Response Centers use a CIMS platform. Use of CIMS has improved NRC emergency response organization (ERO) communications, allowing fast sharing of up-to-date and accurate information, such as recent licensee events or potential problems, throughout its response facilities. This information sharing facilitates rapid decision making by ERO members. Implementing a

CIMS platform in NRC response facilities has improved the effectiveness of the agency’s response capabilities.

The NRC recently acquired technology to link CIMS platforms being used by licensees, Federal, State, local and tribal governments with the NRC’s CIMS at Headquarters and in the Regions. Organizations that would like to connect with the NRC over this CIMS link would incur no expense. Together, the NRC and participating organizations will identify the type of information to be shared and connectivity details. Interested organizations should contact: Rebecca Stone at 301-415-5634 or via email at [Rebecca.Stone@nrc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Stone@nrc.gov).

**Radiological Risk  
Communication**

Two new reference documents were recently published by the NRC to help with the development of risk communication plans and messaging during a radiological emergency. Both of these documents are publically available and can be found in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System. ML110490119 is the accession number for NUREG/CR-7032, “Developing an Emergency Risk Communication (ERC) / Joint Information Center (JIC) Plan for a Radiological Emergency.” ML110490120 is the accession number for NUREG/CR-7033, “Guidance on Developing Effective Radiological Risk Communication Messages: Effective Message Mapping and Risk Communication with the Public in Nuclear Plant Emergency Planning Zones.”

**2011 Biennial EP Exercises with NRC Participation - Look Ahead**

Exercise Date	Licensee	Exercise Type	Participants
4/12 - 4/14/2011	San Onofre	Plume / Ingestion Exposure	NRC Region IV, Licensee, State (CA)
4/20/2011	Quad Cities	Plume Exposure Pathway	NRC Region III, Licensee, State (IL)
4/26/2011	Harris	Plume Exposure Pathway	NRC Region II, Licensee, State (NC)
5/03 - 5/04/2011	Vermont Yankee	Plume / Ingestion Exposure Pathway	NRC Region I, Licensee, States (VT, NH, MA)
5/16/2011	Multiple	National Level Exercise	NRC HQ, All Regions, Multiple



## Management Changes Announced in Division of Preparedness and Response

The Division of Preparedness and Response welcomes new Deputy Director for Emergency Preparedness, Mark Thaggard. Mr. Thaggard joins NSIR from the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, where he has served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and Rulemaking since 2008.

Mr. Thaggard succeeds Christopher Miller. Mr. Miller will be moving to

Region I where he will serve as Director of the Division of Reactor Safety. Mr. Miller will assume his new position in Region I in April.



Mark Thaggard



Chris Miller

## Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness - Rulemaking Update

Progress is continuing on the emergency preparedness (EP) rulemaking effort. On January 14, 2011, the draft final rule and related regulatory guidance documents were presented to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). In a letter dated January 24, 2011, the ACRS provided the results of their review with focus on two of the rulemaking topics: Performance-based Emergency Operations Facility and Evacuation Time Estimates.

Full text of the ACRS letter can be found in the Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), using Accession Number MLI10170008.

NRC and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff have been conducting informational meetings across the nation with State and local government stakeholders to keep them informed of current rulemaking related activities. Additionally, the NRC and FEMA held two public meet-

ings in Arlington, TX on January 25, 2011 and Saratoga Springs, NY on February 1, 2011 to gain insights on the design and scheduling of the implementation workshops that will be conducted shortly after the rule is issued in the Federal Register. Valuable feedback was received during these meetings that will aid in the NRC and FEMA objectives of providing the most benefit to stakeholders from the workshop.

**Next Steps:** The final EP rule package is scheduled to be submitted to the NRC's Executive Director for Operations in late March 2011. The final rule package will then be submitted to the Commission for approval. Upon approval, the rule will be published in the Federal Register. Following publication, the NRC and FEMA will offer a series of workshops to discuss implementation of the final EP rule and guidance.

## Tomorrow's Nuclear Today: Small Modular Reactors

The NRC staff continues to prepare to review small modular reactor (SMR) designs. There have been several public meetings to engage stakeholders such as the Department of Energy, National Laboratories, SMR designers, and the Nuclear Energy Institute. These meetings assist NRC staff in identifying potential policy, regulatory, and technical issues related to existing emergency planning and preparedness requirements. Through these meetings, several issues related to EP were identified such as the impact of modularity on EP response, smaller source term dose consequences, EP plans for co-located sites, size of emergency planning zones (EPZs), and emergency response organization staffing. Potential EP issues associated with SMRs are generally described in Commission Paper SECY-10-0034, "Potential Policy, Licensing, and Key Technical Issues for Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Designs". SECY-10-0034 is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), Accession Number ML093290245. The NRC staff is currently developing an informational Commission paper describing a framework for establishing a graded approach to EP, which includes determining EPZ sizes for SMRs. For more information on SMRs, visit <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/advanced.html>.

### Upcoming Events of Interest to the EP Community

#### 21st Annual National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

April 18-21, 2011

Rosen Plaza Hotel

Orlando, FL

### NRC Joins the Blogosphere

In January 2011, the NRC launched a new blog. The blog provides an interactive forum for communication between the NRC and the public. Blog posts will cover a variety of topics related to the NRC's activities, including emergency preparedness and incident response. Join the conversation at <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov/>.

