Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • National Weather Service

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Operations and Services Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5 National Non-Weather Related Emergency Products Specifications, NWSI 10-518

WESTERN REGION PLAN FOR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <u>http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/</u>.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement supersedes NWS Western Region Supplement 9-2004 dated August 13, 2004 for WFO and Regional contacts and phone numbers, and filed with J-08. Unlisted phone numbers have been redacted for posting on public web pages.

Signed

04/04/06

Vickie Nadolski Director, Western Region Date

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1. <u>Description</u>: This Supplement establishes Western Region policy and procedures that will apply during declared radiological emergencies or incidents. This Supplement and National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-518 supersede area, state, or regional agreements between the National Weather Service (NWS) and other agencies or entities concerned with commercial nuclear power plant emergencies. Any local agreements or memorandums of understanding should be reviewed annually and, if necessary, reissued to reflect current NWS policy.

2. <u>Format and Procedures</u>.

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2.1 <u>Background</u>: Actions taken during radiological emergencies or incidents at commercial power plants are directed toward (1) ensuring the safety of residents in the affected area, (2) maintaining or improving the physical integrity of the power plant and,(3) containing any radiological releases. Such actions will involve a wide spectrum of federal, state, and local agencies as well as the power plant operator. Hydrometeorological variables can strongly impact emergency actions.

National Weather Service Headquarters (NWSH), Western Region Headquarters, and NWS Forecast Offices (WFOs) play significant roles during such emergencies or incidents. The general details of these roles are established in Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan. Plans can never cover all events that occur during emergency situations. Field offices must be prepared to provide support to involved agencies during any such emergency or incident, whether specifically covered in plans or not especially those with off-site response accountability.

2.2 <u>Operational Relationships</u>: The nuclear power plant operator may be either a commercial entity such as a utility company or a quasi-public agency such as a utility district. The operator is required to maintain meteorological measurement and prediction capability either directly or by contracting with private meteorologists. Due to the potential hazards and media implications that a commercial nuclear power plant poses, NWS field offices with support responsibilities should be aggressive in their approach to nurturing relationships with commercial operators. For

example, field offices will make commercial operators aware of NWS support resources, such as data, products, and services. Field offices shall work closely with commercial operators to develop plans and/or agreements, whereby NWS support resources can be utilized, if needed. During emergency preparedness exercises and during actual plant emergencies, NWS personnel will work directly with federal, state, and local agencies. These will primarily consist of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and state and local emergency management agencies.

2.3 <u>Summary of Support</u>: Support to commercial operators and Federal and other emergency management agencies by the NWS falls into the following broad categories:

- a. FO participation in emergency preparedness exercises.
- b. Training in NWS resources, such as forecasts, data, products, and services.
- c. Upper air and fixed/mobile observations provided during emergency preparedness exercises and during actual plant emergencies by NWS field offices.
- d. Severe local storm and flood warnings, forecasts, observations, and advice provided directly or indirectly by NWS field offices and national centers. Other specialized forecasts and services which may be provided are:
 - WFOs may initiate emergency requests to the NCEP Senior Duty Meteorologist to provide a special run of HYSPLIT as per the procedures outlined in NWSI 10-518.
 - Fallout winds for selected points in the U.S. are also available via a twice per day issuance (00z and 12z). The fallout wind vectors are contained in the bulletin FDUS01 (WMO Heading) FOFUS (AWIPS Heading). The bulletin provides three vectors representing a triangular pattern of particle deposition expected within three hours of a release.
 - On-site weather support during declared emergencies, as requested by plant operators. On-site support can be either the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) or designated radiological forecaster traveling to the emergency operations center, or an All Hazards Meteorological Response System (AMRS) dispatch staffed with a Incident Meteorologist (IMET). Requests for AMRS support will follow the same procedures as defined in NWSI 10-402. A description of on-site support is contained in the following section entitled FIELD OFFICE SUPPORT.
- e. At the request of appropriate local authorities, emergency messages (including EAS messages) may be broadcast over NOAA All Hazards Radio.

Nuclear power plant operators and the support agencies are at liberty to take somewhat different approaches to preparing for, and acting during, emergency situations. Flexibility to provide needed weather support for these actions is granted to each supporting and managing NWS field office. It will be the responsibility of the cognizant Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) and the MIC of his/her backup office to develop local plans and/or agreements with the commercial operator and the support agencies.

2.4 <u>Plant Support Assignments</u>: The following Western Region Offices are assigned primary and backup support responsibilities for the designated nuclear power plants.

Power Plant	Primary Support	Backup Support
Hanford WPN #2	WSO Pendleton OR XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO Seattle WA XXX-XXX-XXXX
Diablo Canyon	WFO Los Angeles CA XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO San Francisco CA XXX-XXX-XXXX
San Onofre	WFO San Diego CA XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO Los Angeles CA XXX-XXX-XXXX
Palo Verde	WFO Phoenix AZ XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO Tucson AZ XXX-XXX-XXXX
Trojan *	WFO Portland OR XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO Seattle WA XXX-XXX-XXXX
Rancho Seco *	WFO Sacramento CA XXX-XXX-XXXX	WFO San Fran CA XXX-XXX-XXXX

* The Trojan Nuclear Power Plant ceased operation January 1993. However, nuclear material is stored on site, though not in the reactor building. The Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant has also ceased operation. Nuclear material is also stored at the site. Hence for the Trojan and Rancho Seco Plants meteorological support will take a different less-active approach, especially regarding table-top exercises, drills, and those duties/activities specified in Sections 2.6 and 2.7 below.

2.5 <u>Designated Western Regional Headquarters Personnel</u>: The following personnel will manage this Region's emergency nuclear response and coordinate with NWSH and Western Region field offices. One of these individuals should be contacted during any emergency nuclear situation. Calling attempts should begin with the first name on the list.

Official	Work Phone	Home Phone
1. Richard Douglas	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXX-XXX-XXXX
2. Carl Gorski	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXX-XXX-XXXX
3. Andy Edman	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXX-XXX-XXXX

The above notified person will make the appropriate Western Region Headquarters personal contacts i.e. Regional Director, Deputy Director or Division Chiefs.

2.6 <u>Preparedness and Training</u>: A section for nuclear emergency procedures will be included in the Station Duty Manual of each primary and backup field office. This will include detailed procedures for notifying station and regional personnel, communicating with concerned state and local officials, and providing support to concerned federal and local officials. Each primary and backup support office should designate an NWS Area Radiological Emergency Coordinator (NAREC), normally the WCM. The names of these persons, 24-hour office telephone numbers, and any changes in designated coordinators or contact telephone numbers will be provided to the:

- A. Appropriate commercial operators, utility, and utility district
- B. State emergency management officials.
- C. Local emergency management officials, as needed.

The NARECs and their telephone numbers and updates and copies of all correspondence and working plans and/or agreements between field offices, commercial operators, and concerned agencies will be provided to Western Region Headquarters, MSD, attention W/WR1x1.

Designated field offices will provide three types of training to commercial operators and concerned agencies: first, to acquaint them with our local, regional, and national radiological emergency response roles, second, to brief them on local field office operations and services and their availability for exercises and emergencies and third, to make them aware of applicable NWS data and products that are routinely available.

Travel resources for coordination and training will be drawn from the MIC's program travel funds or from special national or regional allocations.

2.7 <u>Field Office Support</u>: NARECs will provide liaison between commercial operators, concerned agency officials, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and NWS support field offices during any nuclear emergency. They should be physically located so as to be in the best position to coordinate and enhance the flow of needed data and forecast information from the responding NWS field office to the commercial operator and responding agencies. This may be at the WFO or the emergency operations center. The nature of the emergency, state of communications, and

other factors shall dictate the physical placement of the NAREC. The concerned MIC and Western Region Headquarters will coordinate this decision. Field office support may also take the form of deployment of an IMET/AMRS to the emergency operations center, if deemed necessary by the cognizant MIC and Western Regions Headquarters and an AMRS/IMET are available.

The responsibility to provide meteorological support during radiological emergencies MAY be assumed by the DOE, depending upon the severity of the situation and availability of DOE resources. DOE support in the Western Region, if provided, will be made by the Las Vegas DOE Nuclear Support Office. In this event a Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) will have been established in a safe area near the site. One component of the FRMAC will be the team from the DOE Nuclear Support Office. This support team will provide meteorological forecasts as well as surface, pibal, and if necessary, RAWINSONDE observations. NARECs shall provide liaison between the DOE support team and NWS support offices after the FRMAC has been established.