



Nevada Site Office News

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National Nuclear Security Administration Participates in Drill with Southern States Emergency Responders

Federal radiological response teams from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are gearing up to participate with the States of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and other local and federal agencies in a simulated transportation radiological incident exercise near Dothan, Alabama. The five day exercise, named Southern Crossing, is scheduled for August 14 through 18. Southern Crossings is being sponsored by NNSA, and supported by the above states and federal agencies.

The scope of the exercise is being developed to initiate the activation of various Emergency Operations Centers at the county and state level, as well as, necessitate field monitoring teams to be brought in from Federal organizations. Many of these sampling and monitoring teams will gather environmental samples in Dothan and the surrounding counties. The radiological aspects of the exercise will be simulated. As exercise play continues, decision-makers from all levels of the government will be put through the rigor of making vital decisions related to public health and safety during the simulated emergency. The exercise will also focus attention on preparation, communication, and management of multiple agencies responding to radiological conditions.

"This exercise provides participants the opportunity to test and validate protocols and procedures for responding to a radiological accident or incident" commented Joseph Krol, NNSA Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations. "During a radiological accident, the NNSA-led Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center performs the vital function of collecting and assessing radiological data related to the event and provides information to the decision makers to help protect and ensure public health and safety."

NNSA routinely participates in drill simulations involving radiological issues throughout the United States. "We are very pleased that the State of Alabama is hosting this event and has welcomed NNSA into their community" noted Krol.

A media briefing and tour of the exercise venues is scheduled for Tuesday August 15, 2006. Additional details will be provided in a subsequent media advisory, or contact Kevin Rohrer at (702) 295-3521 or Cynthia Green, City of Dothan, (334) 615-3117, for further details.

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- 30 -