



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ESTABLISHES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ORGANIZATION IN OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is establishing an Emergency Preparedness Project Office to enhance the effectiveness of emergency preparedness activities for commercial nuclear reactors.

The new organization, which will be part of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, will be directed by Nader L. Mamish. He is currently Executive Assistant to the NRC's Deputy Executive Director for Homeland Protection and Preparedness.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the NRC has been reviewing the way it is organized to address security and emergency preparedness issues involving its licensees. Establishment of the new Emergency Preparedness Office in NRR follows the earlier creation of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response and the appointment of a Deputy Executive Director for Homeland Protection and Preparedness.

The NRC also recognizes the importance of bolstering communication of its emergency preparedness activities with internal and external stakeholders including the public, the industry, the international nuclear community, as well as Federal, state and local government agencies. The establishment of the new office reflects the NRC's increasing focus on the importance of emergency preparedness to mitigate the effects of potential security threats or other events.

The new office will be responsible for developing emergency preparedness policies, regulations, programs and guidelines for currently licensed nuclear reactors and potential new nuclear reactors. A Licensing and Regulatory Improvements Section within the new office will provide emergency preparedness technical expertise and coordinate its activities with the NRC's Office of Materials Safety and Safeguards, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response and other agency organizations.

Additionally, an Inspection and Communications Section will coordinate emergency preparedness communications and provide oversight and technical direction for the emergency preparedness component of the reactor oversight process.

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