

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### New York State Emergency Planning

The New York State emergency management staff provides annual training for off-site responders. The state serves as coordinator in the event of an emergency at any of the six nuclear power plants in New York. Using sophisticated computer programs, the state supports the counties in assessing the potential exposure of people in the area and determining the severity of the event. The New York State Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan (REPP) is New York's program for mitigating the possible consequences of a radiological emergency, especially one that might occur at a nuclear power plant.

The New York State Office of Emergency management (NYSEMO) works with Entergy to develop drill and exercise scenarios. State representatives coordinate, observe and evaluate the exercises. In the event of a major emergency at Indian Point, the state can also provide additional personnel and equipment to the four counties.

The state Radiological Emergency Program has three major aims:

- To protect the public, especially those living or working within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone;
- To coordinate the actions taken by Entergy, state and federal agencies, local governments and other support groups into an effective response; and
- To allocate and assign resources in response to an emergency.

### Four County Emergency Planning

The 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) around the Indian Point nuclear plants encompasses parts of four New York counties – Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange. These four counties participate in emergency planning and drills as active members of the radiological response team. Every year, each county sends an emergency planning information booklet to all residents which describes actions that may be taken during an emergency. The maps in each booklet show the location of reception centers and evacuation routes. In the event of an emergency, each county executive (or designee) would be responsible for determining what, if any, people living in their county should take protective actions.

Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange counties have Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) staffed with personnel to assess the potential off-site effects of the incident. County EOCs dispatch field radiological monitoring teams that independently measure levels of radioactivity within the 10-mile EPZ. Personnel from the emergency planning organization in each county participate in a full-scale, federally evaluated exercise once every two years. This exercise is evaluated for FEMA for off-site responses, and by the NRC for Entergy's on-site response. In alternate years, the counties participate in state-coordinated drills to maintain their preparedness and train new staff.

County plans call for the activation of their EOCs when Entergy declares an Alert of higher incident classification at Indian Point. All four counties have provisions to be notified by Entergy as soon as any emergency classification is made at the site. Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange County emergency managers and county executives can activate their EOCs at any time they determine it is necessary.

#### Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

The NRC regulates the non-military uses of nuclear materials in the United State, including the operation of commercial nuclear power plants. It is the NRC's responsibility to see that the proper safeguards to protect the public and the environment are ensured at these nuclear power plants. The NRC issues nuclear power plant licenses; issues regulations concerning their operation; and oversees each nuclear plant's daily operations and the annual exercises. Two full-time NRC inspectors are located at each operating plant.

The NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) share federal oversight of emergency planning for licensed nuclear power plants through a memorandum of understanding.

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Now a part of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, FEMA acts on requests for federal response assistance in situations where state and local governments need additional help to participate adequately in radiological emergency planning and preparedness.

FEMA has issued regulations and guidance that call for detailed planning to handle a radiological emergency. The major elements of the program addressed in the guidance are:

- Procedures to be followed by participating state and local governments in submitting preparedness plans for review and approval by FEMA;
- Provisions for the conduct and evaluation of exercises;
- Criteria for evaluating emergency plans and their implementation exercises; and
- Procedures for coordinating the provision of federal assistance to state and local governments.