

NUCLEAR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SECTION
2008-2009 FACT SHEET
HOSTILE ACTION BASED DRILLS

Nuclear Regulatory Bulletin 2005-02 “Emergency Preparedness and Response Actions for Security-Based Events” suggests that licensees should periodically test and exercise threat-based emergency capabilities. It is suggested that each site perform one threat-based drill between September 2006 and December 2009. These drills are intended to integrate response to a range of security events demonstrated by Operations, Security and Emergency Response Organizations (on and offsite). Through 2009, it is expected that each site will conduct an integrated hostile based action drill during the off year of the biennial exercise schedule. The long-term expectations are that each site will demonstrate an emergency response to security events one time during the 6-year exercise cycle based on Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) endorsement.

To this end, on July 29, 2008 representatives of the Bureau of Nuclear Engineering’s (BNE) attended a hostile threat tabletop exercise at the Ritacco Center in Toms River. Drill participants included the FBI, Exelon emergency response and security personnel, State Police Office of Emergency Management, National Guard, and county and local law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the tabletop was to practice co-ordination between each agency and to discuss specific response roles with regard to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

On September 9th, 2008 the Oyster Creek nuclear generating station conducted the actual Hostile Action Based Drill. Exelon, the BNE, and the State Police Office of Emergency Management supported the drill by participating at off-site response facilities. The Emergency Operations Facility and Joint Information Center located in Toms River, and the Emergency Operations Center located at the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center in West Trenton were staffed by responders. The exercise tested the Incident Command System and integrated local, state and federal law enforcement, fire, medical and hazmat agencies.

The Hostile Action Based Drill initiative is a part of the NRC’s and FEMA’s proposed rule for enhancements and revisions to Supplement 4 of the “Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants,” NUREG-0654/FEMA- REP-1/Rev. 1 (NUREG-0654), and the proposed Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Manual (the REPP Manual). Stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes before they are integrated into the exercise schedule cycle by the NRC and FEMA.