



After Action Report

Rochester Middle School Reception Center Exercise

December 13, 2022



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1. Executive Summary

On October 12, 2022, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region I evaluated a Host Community Reception Center Exercise in Rochester, New Hampshire. The exercise was held at the Rochester Middle School.

The purpose of this exercise was to assess the capabilities of the Rochester Fire Department, Rochester Middle School Reception Center staff and volunteers to respond to a radiological incident involving NextEra Energy's Seabrook Station. The exercise was held in accordance with FEMA's policies and guidance concerning the exercise of state and local Radiological Emergency Response Plans (RERP) and procedures.

Protecting the public's health and safety is the full-time job for some of the exercise participants and an additional assigned responsibility for others. Still others have willingly sought this responsibility by volunteering to provide vital emergency services to their communities.

FEMA wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the many individuals who participated in this exercise. The various agencies, organizations, volunteers, and units of government from the state and local jurisdictions within the state of New Hampshire who participated in this exercise are listed elsewhere in this report.

This report contains the final evaluation of the Rochester Middle School Reception Center Exercise.

There were no Level 1 or 2 Findings, and no Planning Issues identified as a result of this exercise.

2. Introduction

On December 7, 1979, President Carter directed FEMA to assume the lead responsibility for all offsite radiological planning and preparedness. FEMA's activities are conducted pursuant to 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 350, 351, and 352. These regulations are a key element in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program, which was established following the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station accident in March 1979.

44 CFR 350 established the policies and procedures for FEMA's initial and continued approval of state and local governments' radiological emergency planning and preparedness for commercial nuclear power plants. This approval is contingent, in part, on state and local government participation in joint exercises with licensees.

FEMA's responsibilities in radiological emergency planning for fixed nuclear facilities include the following:

- Taking the lead in offsite emergency planning and the review and evaluation of RERP's and procedures developed by state and local governments;
- Review and evaluate RERPs and procedures developed by state and local governments;
- Determining whether such plans and procedures can be implemented on the basis of observation and evaluation of exercises of the plans and procedures conducted by state and local governments;
- Responding to requests by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the NRC and FEMA dated June 17, 1993 (Federal Register, VOL. 58, No. 176, September 14, 1993); and
- Coordinating the activities of Federal agencies with responsibilities in the radiological emergency planning process:
 - U.S. Department of Commerce
 - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - U.S. Department of Energy
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - U.S. Department of Transportation
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - U.S. Department of the Interior
 - U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Representatives of these agencies serve on the FEMA Region I Regional Assistance Committee (RAC), which is chaired by the FEMA RAC Chairperson.

Initial formal submission of the RERPs for the Seabrook Station to FEMA Region I by the State of New Hampshire, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and local jurisdictions, occurred in September 1987, and May 1992, respectively. Formal approval of the RERPs was granted by FEMA in June 1988 and June 1992, respectively under 44 CFR 350.

The findings presented in this report are based on the evaluations of the Federal evaluator team, with final determinations made by the FEMA Region I RAC Chairperson.

The criteria utilized in the FEMA evaluation process are contained in the following:

- NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 2, “Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants”, December 2019.
- FEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness Manual, December 2019.

Section 3 of this report, entitled “Exercise Evaluation and Results,” presents detailed information on the demonstration of applicable exercise objectives at each jurisdiction or functional entity evaluated. There were no Level 1 or Level 2 Findings and no Planning Issues identified during the conduct of this drill.

3. Exercise Evaluation and Results

3.1. Exercise Objectives, Capabilities, and Activities

Contained in this section are the results and findings of the evaluation of the Rochester Middle School Reception Center Exercise that was conducted on October 12, 2022. The purpose of this exercise was to assess the capabilities of the Emergency Management Personnel of Rochester Middle School Reception Center to demonstrate the adequacy of procedures, facilities, equipment, and personnel for the radiological monitoring, decontamination, and registration of evacuees due to a Seabrook Station incident.

3.2. Participating Agencies

Dover Fire and Rescue Department

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

New Hampshire Division of Public Health

Northern New England American Red Cross

Rochester Department of Public Health

Rochester Emergency Management

Rochester Fire Department

Volunteers from New Hampshire towns

3.3. Location: Rochester Middle School Reception Center

The Reception Center Staff was made up of multiple emergency response entities and volunteer organizations. They worked together exceptionally well and demonstrated excellent teamwork.

The Reception Center Incident Commander demonstrated excellent direction and control and communications throughout the exercise. The Reception Center Staff were knowledgeable and engaged throughout the exercise. They did an excellent job of radiation exposure control and decontamination of evacuees and emergency workers, starting from vehicle monitoring onto portal and secondary monitoring and personnel decontamination. Staff did an excellent job throughout the registration process, which included registering evacuees, facilitating reunifications, and providing shelter and transportation referrals. They maintained excellent contamination control throughout the exercise and demonstrated proficiency in their use of equipment and monitoring techniques. Staff successfully demonstrated knowledge of their plans and procedures.

MET: 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4

LEVEL 1 FINDING (L1): None

LEVEL 2 FINDING (L2): None

PLANNING ISSUE (P): None

4. Appendix A: Exercise Evaluator Matrix

EVALUATION SITE	EVALUATOR	TASK	CRITERIA	Target Capability
Rochester Reception Center	B. Thomas	Mobilization	1.a.1	1.1
Rochester Reception Center	I. Pierce	Direction & Control	1.c.1	1.2
Rochester Reception Center	L. Halsey	Facilities Communications Equipment & Supplies	1.b.1, 1.e.1 1.d.1	1.2 3.1
Rochester Reception Center	H. LaForge	Evacuee Registration	6.a.1	5.1
Rochester Reception Center	H. LaForge	Emergency Worker Exposure Control	3.a.1	2.2
Rochester Reception Center	J. Hickey	Portal and Secondary Monitoring	6.a.1, 6.b.1	5.1
Rochester Reception Center	T. Hollins (F) B. Thomas (M)	Female Decontamination Male Decontamination	3.a.1 6.a.1	2.2, 5.1
Rochester Reception Center	PJ. Nied	Traffic and Access Control Vehicle Monitoring & Decontamination	3.d.1 6.a.1, 6.b.1	5.4 5.1, 5.2