

# FEMA to Evaluate Readiness of the Commonwealth of Virginia

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**PHILADELPHIA** – The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) will evaluate a Biennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise at the Surry Power Station. The exercise will occur during the week of July 24, 2017 to assess the ability of the Commonwealth of Virginia to respond to an emergency at the nuclear facility.

“These drills are held every other year to evaluate government’s ability to protect public health and safety,” said MaryAnn Tierney, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region III. “We will assess state and local emergency response capabilities within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone as well as the adjacent support jurisdictions within the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

Within 90 days, FEMA will send its evaluation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ([NRC](#)) for use in licensing decisions. The final report will be available to the public approximately 120 days after the exercise.

FEMA will present preliminary findings of the exercise in a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. on July 28th, 2017 at the Newport News Marriott at City Center, 740 Town Center Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Planned speakers include representatives from FEMA, NRC, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

At the public meeting, FEMA may request that questions or comments be submitted in writing for review and response. Written comments may also be submitted after the meeting by emailing [FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov) or by mail to:

MaryAnn Tierney

Regional Administrator

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**FEMA**

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FEMA created the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program to (1) ensure the health and safety of citizens living around commercial nuclear power plants would be adequately protected in the event of a nuclear power plant accident and (2) inform and educate the public about radiological emergency preparedness.

REP Program responsibilities cover only “offsite” activities, that is, state and local government emergency planning and preparedness activities that take place beyond the nuclear power plant boundaries. Onsite activities continue to be the responsibility of the NRC.

Additional information on FEMA’s REP Program is available online at [FEMA.gov/Radiological-Emergency-Preparedness-Program](https://www.fema.gov/Radiological-Emergency-Preparedness-Program).

*FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA Region III’s jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Stay informed of FEMA’s activities online: videos and podcasts are available at [fema.gov/medialibrary](https://www.fema.gov/medialibrary) and [youtube.com/fema](https://www.youtube.com/fema). Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/femaregion3](https://twitter.com/femaregion3).*

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