

REGION 2 BI-WEEKLY

Vol. 3 Issue 13

July 8, 2011

REP DRILL HERALDS NEW ERA

The full-scale Plume/Ingestion Pathway exercise at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Station in upstate New York announces a new era in Region II's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program: For the first time, the Incident Management Activation Team (IMAT) was on hand, observing a REP drill, with an eye toward eventually integrating their operations with those of the REP team and other stakeholders.

The 38-member federal team, which drew from 10 federal agencies, was led by REP Branch Chief Rebecca Thomson. They evaluated 33 criteria within six key evaluation areas, including emergency operations management, protective action decision making, protective action implementation, field radiation measurements and analysis, emergency notification and public information, and support operations, such as decontamination, mass care, and medical services. The three day exercise – June 21-23 – was the culmination of nearly a year of planning.

The exercise was executed in several phases. Day one was the Plume Phase. Its' initiating event was an unplanned release of radiation into the atmosphere immediately followed by a declaration of a General Emergency by the utility and notice to the public via the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Radioactive deposits from the plume – from between 0 and 50 miles from the site – characterize the Ingestion Pathway Phase, so-called because the deposits on the ground can contaminate crops and farm animals, thus entering the food chain.

The exercise concluded with a de-brief of exercise participants, after which a public meeting was held. Approximately 25 residents and three local media outlets attended. REP Branch Chief Thomson is shown above, right, talking with The Palladium Times reporter Janet Rebeor-Dexter.

The drill tested multiple capabilities to ensure that adequate offsite emergency plans and preparedness were in place, and could be implemented by State and local governments to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. Both the



New York State and Oswego County EOCs were activated, and Oswego, Onondaga, Jefferson, Lewis, Cayuga, Seneca, Oneida, Madison, Ontario and Wayne counties all participated in the 50-mile ingestion pathway phase of the exercise.

The federal agencies on the support team included the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Weather Service, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Energy, Transportation, Defense, Agriculture, and Commerce.

New York State participants included the Emergency Management Office, Mental Health, General Services, Agriculture and Markets, the State University of New York, Bureau of Environmental Radiological Protection, State Police, and the Departments of Health, Transportation, and Environmental Conservation. Oswego County agencies also participated, as did private and voluntary organizations, including the American Red Cross, Entergy, Constellation Energy and WSYR radio.

CAD Hosts Private Sector For Disaster Preps

The Caribbean Area Division (CAD), partnering with the University of the Sacred Heart Center for Volunteers Development, the PR Seismic Network and the US Coast Guard held a special emergency preparedness event this week for the island's private sector and voluntary organizations. Over 140 participants, including representatives from financial giant Banco Popular, and the media outlet El Vocero joined several voluntary organizations for the event. CAD Director Alex DeLaCampa addressed the group, right.



The University of the Sacred Heart Center for Volunteers Development trains and provides technical assistance to private-non-profits. It helps them manage their programs, promotes their services, and helps helping identify opportunities for organizations' efforts. There are also centers in the Catholic University in Ponce and the University of PR –Mayaguez campus.

NEW FACES IN R-2



The new faces in the halls of 26 Federal Plaza belong to an extraordinary group of summer interns and summer hires. From left to right: Brandon Drennan, summer hire; Scott Proser, intern; Kimberly Sharkey, summer hire; Ramona Ramirez, summer hire; Gregory Dayton and Thomas Kyle Johnson, both interns.

More than 500 people applied for the four summer hire positions, according to Donna Fisher, Deputy Director of Mission Support. (The fourth begins July 18th.) The intern slots were equally competitive.

CAD's CATASTROPHIC PLAN CONVENES STAKEHOLDERS

Last week, the CAD hosted the *Initial Awareness Briefings (IAB)* for the *RII Catastrophic Plan* and *PR Earthquake and Tsunami Annexes* planning efforts. Several meetings were held with state and federal government representatives, as well as non-governmental entities in Puerto Rico. Stakeholders included all PR ESFs, NOAA, NWS, SBA, VA, American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard and the University of PR Seismic Network.

As result of the meetings, an *Earthquake and Tsunami Planning Team* was established and NOAA, NWS *Tsunami Ready* Program, and the University of PR Seismic Network committed to help develop a 7.5 magnitude earthquake scenario with current data.

R-2 TRAINING CORNER

On July 19th, there will be a SAVER 2 training in the RRCC from 0900-1500. Preference will be given to members of the IMAT, Watch Officers and LOGS and Ops staff.

FEMA's Situational Awareness Viewer for Emergency Response and Recovery (SAVER²) is an agency approved GIS software that allows for the display, analysis and sharing of operationally relevant information. For more information, contact Regional Training Manager Ed Capps. Ed also urges staff to complete their annual Mandatory Training as soon as possible.

LMPCs: OLD FORMAT; NEW TONE

President's Order Enhances Labor-Management Dialogue

Last week, leadership for labor and management from FEMA-HQ, Region-II and the local chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees union met in the Regional offices to strengthen the Region's Labor Management Partnership Council (LMPC) .



The meeting signaled the implementation of President Barack Obama's Executive Order # 13522, which mandated labor-management partnership councils (LMPC) for the federal government. The Executive Order states that management should discuss workplace challenges and problems with labor, and endeavor to develop solutions jointly, rather than advise union representatives of predetermined solutions to problems and then engage in bargaining over the impact and implementation of the predetermined solutions.

Unlike prior LMPC meetings, this meeting – led by Corey Coleman, FEMA-HQ, Deputy Chief Component Human Capital Officer (DCCHCO), and Harinder Jaiswal, FEMA-HQ, Chief Labor Employee Relations Division, OC-CHCO – encouraged candid discussion on issues of mutual concern, potential resolutions, and recommended courses of action. (Both FEMA-HQ and Region-II have had LMPCs since 1993, pioneering the mechanism now mandated by Executive Order.)

Two months ago, FEMA-HQ Deputy Associate Administrator Al Sligh visited Region II, along with Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) personnel, to train Region II management, and AFGE, Local-2203 executive officers in PDI. Sligh also met with AFGE, Local-2203 executive officers, who provided him with a list of 13 main categories of Region-II employee issues and concerns. The visit revitalized the Region's labor-management dialogue, as did the arrival of the team from Sligh's staff to re-view and further discuss the union's concerns.

Region-II Regional Administrator Lynn Cantor, center, Coleman, lower left, Jaiswal, upper right, and members of the Executive Board of Local-2203 met to discuss 13 issues presented by the union. "The two parties came together to discuss the issues," Coleman said. "That's a good start to resolving these concerns and it's a process that FEMA has been doing for years." AFGE Local-2203 executive officers agreed with Coleman, noting they are, "Continuing the past association...however, by identifying and openly discussing long-standing regional issues, and re-approaching intractable attitudes, we expect success."

Within the 13 concerns raised are items regarding the interpretation and application of various authorities, policies, procedures, practices, and programs including official guidance on hiring practices, merit promotions, performance plans, training, career development, time/attendance, tele-work, work resources, etc..

"A lot of these issues developed over time and it may take time to resolve them," Jaiswal said. "But that's the reason why we're here. The FEMA-HQ-HR team will continue to provide guidance, support, and training to improve conditions in Region-II, as well as, those throughout the nation."

All the principals demonstrated immense good faith, as well as astute realism.