

NRC Draft Year 2000 Contingency Plan



Joseph G. Giitter

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

jgg@nrc.gov



Courtesy of the Omaha World Herald

Assessment of Problem

- Scope
 - * Reactors
 - * Materials Licensees
 - * Internal Systems
- Internal Risk
 - * Safety Systems
 - * Balance of Plant
- External Risk
 - * Electric Grid Reliability
 - * Telecommunications
 - * Other

Y2K Contingency Plan Assumptions

- Localized electrical grid disturbances/power outages
- Local or regional telecommunications outages
- At least two NRC-licensed facilities adversely impacted
- Unforeseen Y2K problems will place a dozen or more licensees in situations that may not impact safety but may depart from a license condition or a technical specification

Three Facets of the Draft Y2K Contingency Plan

- Incident Response
- Information Sharing
- Regulatory Response

Y2K Incident Response

- Augment Existing Response Plan
- Headquarters Operations Center staffed by a scaled-down multi-disciplinary team on December 31, 1999
- Back-up Incident Response Center in Arlington, Texas
- Resident Inspectors on site

Y2K Information Sharing

- Small advance team to monitor situation overseas and provide relevant information to licensees
- Advance phone checks to 00:15 in each time zone
- Relay relevant information to nuclear power plant licensees
- Back-up communication systems employed

Y2K Regulatory Response

- NRC recognizes the importance of ensuring grid reliability during this critical time
- Team of experts ready to assist nuclear power plant licensees in making prompt operability determinations
- NRC will provide “up-front” approval (akin to 50.54(x) or enforcement discretion) for nuclear power plant licensees to continue operating provided there is no significant safety consideration

MAJOR MILESTONES

- Contingency Plan Task Force Established 9/98
- Draft Contingency Plan Available 12/98
- External Stakeholder Feedback 2/99
- Provide Plan to Commission 3/99
- Provide Guidance to Industry 6/99
- Exercise and Drill Contingency Plan
 - *National Tabletop 6/99
 - *FEMA REP Workshops Summer 99
 - *NRC Y2K Exercise 10/99
- Implement Plan Dec. 31- Jan. 1