



THE INTERJURISDICTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

History and Purpose

Following the events at Three Mile Island in 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published NUREG-0654 FEMA-REP-1, Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants. Representatives from jurisdictions within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) convened shortly thereafter to address emergency planning requirements to ensure the coordination and effectiveness of off-site emergency plans.

The Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC) is made up of eight primary representatives from the cities of San Clemente, Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano; the counties of Orange and San Diego; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; California State Parks; and Southern California Edison. As such, the primary challenge for the IPC was managing, in the event of an emergency, the coordination of separate jurisdictions with independent decision-making authority to adequately protect the health and safety of the public. The IPC's mission is to promote nuclear power preparedness through agency coordination and the integration of emergency plans. This committee was eventually codified by California Health and Safety Code (section 114650a7).

Since that inaugural meeting, the group has continued to meet regularly to continuously improve plans to protect the public's health and safety in the event of an emergency at SONGS, or in the more likely event of a natural disaster such as an earthquake or tsunami. Monthly planning meetings, annual training programs and regular drills have resulted in enhanced public education, integrated response plans, a staff of highly trained and educated decision-makers and an informed public. Just recently, as part of the IPC's efforts to address the disaster at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in Japan, the committee instituted a daily conference call to ensure all agencies were kept abreast of current conditions in Japan, media strategies and response activities. This type of proactive alignment is indicative of the organization's commitment to excellent communication and continuous improvement.

Another example of the committee's dedication to continuous improvement includes the achievement of a major accomplishment in 2007 when the IPC developed and gained approval for a new methodology for addressing the EPZ population in the event of an emergency. By implementing the use of Protective Action Zones (PAZs), jurisdictional decision-makers can more effectively implement risk-informed Protective Action Decisions (PADs). For example, a population in one geographic area that may be impacted by an emergency will be given direction to take action to protect themselves, while those in another zone not affected by the emergency will not need to take action. This is in contrast to the previous methodology that required action for the entire EPZ population without regard for who was actually affected.

Incorporated as important partners into this organization are representatives from other supporting agencies such as the Capistrano Unified School District, American Red Cross, Orange County Fire Authority, Oceanside Fire Department, Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center, California Highway Patrol, California Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.