

<b>EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)</b>
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**I. PURPOSE**

This annex establishes procedures for the activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the National Weather Service (NWS) tone alert radio system in response to an incident at one of the Nuclear Power facilities affecting North Carolina.

**II. GENERAL**

**A.** This annex recognizes the State of North Carolina and following counties as lead coordinating agencies in North Carolina for public notification and warning in case of an accident/incident at the associated Nuclear Power facility.

- 1. Brunswick Nuclear Plant - Brunswick County
- 2. Harris Nuclear Plant - Wake County
- 3. McGuire Nuclear Station - Mecklenburg County
- 4. Catawba Nuclear Station - Mecklenburg County \*

\* Due to the physical location of the Catawba Nuclear Station in South Carolina, the State of South Carolina will be the lead for EAS activation. Should South Carolina be unable to accomplish these functions, North Carolina State EOC (SEOC) or Mecklenburg County will accomplish EAS Activation using North Carolina procedures and EAS messages.)

**B.** This recognition, however, imposes no restrictions on the remaining EPZ Risk Counties surrounding each facility to meeting their citizen's needs for public notification and warning. It merely vests a collective trust in one governmental agency (State or County) to act as the focal point for initiating an event common to all effected counties which must be carefully coordinated by several parties. Following list by nuclear power facility shows Lead and associated Risk Counties:

- 1. Brunswick Nuclear Plant
  - a. Brunswick County - Lead
  - b. New Hanover County
  
- 2. Harris Nuclear Plant
  - a. Wake County - Lead
  - b. Chatham County
  - c. Harnett County
  - d. Lee County
  
- 3. McGuire Nuclear Station
  - a. Mecklenburg County - Lead
  - b. Gaston County
  - c. Lincoln County
  - d. Catawba County
  - e. Iredell County
  
- 4. Catawba Nuclear Station \*
  - a. Mecklenburg County - Lead (NC)

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- b. Gaston County
- c. York County, SC - Lead (SC)

\* Due to the physical location of the Catawba Nuclear Station in South Carolina, the State of South Carolina will be the lead for EAS activation. Should South Carolina be unable to accomplish these functions, North Carolina SEOC or Mecklenburg County will accomplish EAS Activation.

- C. Acceptance of, or participation in, this plan by the broadcast media shall not be deemed as relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation.

### **III. CONCEPT**

- A. EAS and NWS tone-alert radios may be activated for a REP event under one of three different situations:
  - 1. An incident in which the counties have direction and control, and the State is unable to assume immediate effective coordination.
  - 2. The State of North Carolina has activated the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and has assumed direction and control at the request of one of the counties, or the Governor has issued a Disaster Declaration.
  - 3. Initial facility Emergency Classification Level (ECL) declaration of General Emergency **WITH** a recommendation for PROTECTIVE ACTION to be taken, **AND** the Lead County Warning Point telecommunications center is UNABLE to contact any key official within the designated time period.
- B. Should an event escalate such that the local Nuclear Power facility declares an ECL of "Site Area Emergency" or "General Emergency", State and local governmental officials must determine whether or not activation of the public notification system is necessary based on current conditions. Where there is a decision to activate the notification system, the State and local officials will determine whether to activate the entire notification system simultaneously or in a graduated or staged manner.
- C. For counties surrounding the facilities effecting North Carolina this consists of sounding warning sirens and the initiation of EAS and NWS tone-alert radio broadcasts. If a Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) is included in the declaration, a Protective Action Decision (PAD) must be agreed upon by the risk counties and the state for inclusion in the broadcasts.
- D. Initial activation of the warning sirens consists of four, three-minute periods. The three minute periods will be interrupted only by intervals to activate or reset the siren activation system. The necessity for and number of any additional siren soundings will be at the judgment and discretion of the local official responsible for activating the system.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A.** Primary communications between the SEOC, NWS offices, Lead County, EAS LP-1, and LP-2 stations will be via commercial telephone. Backup communication will be via satellite telephone (Channel 1).
- B.** Primary communications between the SEOC, Risk Counties and nuclear power facility is the Selective Signaling System (SSS). This is a restricted telephone communications network that can only be accessed by dialing a special access code number. The special access code number is restricted to the designated Communications Centers (SEOC or Warning Point) in the following counties:
1. Brunswick Nuclear Plant
    - a. Brunswick County - Lead
    - b. New Hanover County
  2. Harris Nuclear Plant
    - a. Wake County - Lead
    - b. Chatham County
    - c. Harnett County
    - d. Lee County
  3. McGuire Nuclear Station
    - a. Mecklenburg County - Lead
    - b. Gaston County
    - c. Lincoln County
    - d. Catawba County
    - e. Iredell County
  4. Catawba Nuclear Station
    - a. Mecklenburg County - Lead (NC)
    - b. Gaston County
    - c. York County, SC - Lead (SC)
- C.** Another primary communications system, known as the "Decision Line," is installed in the EOCs of the above listed counties, North Carolina SEOC (Raleigh), NCEM Branch Offices, Duke Power EOF (Charlotte); Progress Energy Harris Plant EOF (New Hill) and Progress Energy Brunswick Plant EOF (Southport). This restricted dial up system is the primarily system for EAS and Emergency Information coordination.
- D.** An additional system for communication between the SEOC, the counties and nuclear power facilities is the Satellite Phone. This is a party line system which all communication traffic is heard by all assigned locations. The National Warning System (NAWAS) telephone circuit is available for communication between the SEOC and the individual NWS offices.
- E.** The authentication code list for verifying EAS activation will be provided to authorized agencies by North Carolina Emergency Management.

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**F. EAS Local Primary Stations (LP-1, LP-2) & NWS Weather Radio Stations:**

1. Brunswick Nuclear Plant
  - a. LP-1 for Brunswick & New Hanover Counties:  
Station: WMNX-FM
  - b. LP-2 for Brunswick & New Hanover Counties:  
Station: WILT-FM
  - c. National Weather Service Station: Wilmington, NC
  
2. Harris Nuclear Plant
  - a. LP-1 for Wake, Chatham, Harnett & Lee Counties:  
Station: WQDR-FM
  - b. LP-2 for Wake, Chatham, Harnett & Lee Counties:  
Station: WDCG-FM
  - c. National Weather Service Station: Raleigh, NC
  
3. McGuire Nuclear Station
  - a. LP-1 for Catawba, Gaston, Lincoln, & Mecklenburg Counties:  
Station: WLNK-FM  
LP-1 for Iredell  
Station: WEND-FM
  - b. LP-2 for Catawba, Gaston, Lincoln, & Mecklenburg Counties:  
Station: WSOC-FM  
LP-2 for Iredell  
Station: WKBC-FM
  - c. National Weather Service Station: Greer, SC
  
4. Catawba Nuclear Station
  - a. LP-1 for Mecklenburg & Gaston Counties:  
Station: WLNK-FM
  - b. LP-2 for Mecklenburg & Gaston Counties:  
Station: WSOC-FM
  - c. National Weather Service Station: Greer, SC

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A.** Following the concurrence of the State (both NC & SC for Catawba) and Risk Counties on the appropriate EAS notification message and message content, the SEOC Communications Center \* will activate the applicable area EAS as soon as possible following the first three minute siren sounding. The SEOC Communications Center will then provide a copy of the appropriate EAS Notification Message to the applicable NWS station via FAX and request activation of the NWS tone-alert radio system for the applicable area no later than 10 minutes after the established siren activation time.

\* (Due to the physical location of the Catawba Nuclear Station in South Carolina, the State of South Carolina is the Lead Agency for EAS activation. Once concurrence is reached, South Carolina will activate the South Carolina EAS network and the North Carolina SEOC will activate the North Carolina network. Should South Carolina be unable to accomplish these functions, North Carolina SEOC or Mecklenburg County will accomplish EAS Activation.)

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- B.** If the SEOC is unable to transmit the message, the SEOC Communications Center will provide a copy of the appropriate EAS Notification Message to the applicable NWS station via FAX and request activation of both the EAS and NWS tone-alert radio system.
- C.** If the SEOC is unable to contact the NWS Station, the Lead County (Para. II.A) will release the EAS notification message to the NWS and request activation of the EAS and NWS tone-alert radio system.
- D.** If neither the SEOC or NWS are able to transmit the EAS the Lead County will release the approved EAS message via the one the following methods
  - 1. Contact with the LP-1 radio station for respective Nuclear Power Plant and provide copies of the applicable message via FAX.
  - 2. Contact with the LP-2 radio station for respective Nuclear Power Plant provide copies of the applicable message via FAX.
- E.** Following release of the message by either the SEOC or the Lead County, the releasing agency will provide copies of the applicable message via FAX to the LP-1 Station, State Warning Point, affected EPZ County EOC's and the Joint Information Center (when activated).
- F.** Once the applicable EAS notification message is released, selected Special News Broadcast messages (See Annex D) will be transmitted immediately to the media to provide the affected population with detailed emergency instructions. A Special News Broadcast is defined as minimum essential information that must reach the affected population for them to immediately react to a protective action recommendation. These messages will be provided in the following manner:
- G.** When activated, the JIC will transmit a copy of the applicable Special News Broadcast message via FAX to primary radio and television stations in the Nuclear Power facility local area. (If the JIC has not been activated, the SERT PIO at the SEOC or Local Emergency Management Director will transmit this message.)
- H.** Backup transmission of Special News Broadcast to radio and television stations will be via commercial telephone by JIC (if not activated, the SERT PIO at the SEOC or Local Emergency Management Director will transmit).
- I.** Additional Special News Broadcasts will be transmitted frequently during an escalating situation to provide the affected population with follow up emergency instructions. It is important that all emergency instructions be clear and concise for transmission to the media through public information channels.
- J. COUNTY EOC'S EXERCISING DIRECTION AND CONTROL.**
  - 1. On receipt of a Nuclear Facility Emergency Notification Form (EM-78) with an ECL of "Site Area Emergency" or "General Emergency", from the local Nuclear Power facility, the Lead County (See Para II.A) will activate

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the Decision Line polling the State of North Carolina (and South Carolina SEOC for Catawba)\* and associated Risk Counties (See Para II.B).

2. The Lead County will request concurrence on whether or not activation of the public notification system is required based on current conditions. If activation of the system is determined, the Lead County will recommend the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence. A proposed time will be made for siren activation and message transmission in coordination with all agencies.  
\* (For events with the Catawba Nuclear Station, the SC SEOC will be the Lead Agency to recommend the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence from NC agencies.)
3. Once message concurrence is received, the SEOC Communications Center will activate the applicable area EAS at the time agreed upon by the State and Risk Counties. This activation should be no later than 5 minutes after the established siren activation time. SEOC Communications Center will then contact the applicable NWS office and request the NWS tone alert radio systems be activated.
4. If concurrence is not received on the first call, the Lead County will wait no more than three minutes, and re-poll the State of North Carolina (and South Carolina SEOC for Catawba)\* and associated Risk Counties for their concurrence. Once all parties agree, or after appropriate message changes are made, the Lead County will request the North Carolina SEOC to transmit the EAS message at the time agreed upon following the first three minute siren sounding.  
\* (For events with the Catawba Nuclear Station, the SC SEOC will be the Lead Agency to recommend the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence from NC agencies.)
5. The SEOC Communications Center will then provide a copy of the appropriate EAS Notification Message to the applicable NWS station via FAX and request activation of the NWS tone-alert radio system for the applicable area no later than 10 minutes after the established siren activation time.
6. All counties will then direct their siren activation points to activate the siren encoders at the previously agreed upon time. The Lead County will coordinate siren activation. They may elect to use a siren countdown for activation.
7. If sirens do not fully activate, back-up route alerting for those areas which did not have siren activation will be accomplished by the individual counties.
8. Once notification has been made, the Lead County EOC will transmit a hard copy of the EAS Notification Message to the SEOC, NWS office, LP-1 station and Risk County EOC's. The SEOC will provide a copy to the SERT PIO who will send a copy to the JIC.

**K. SERT IS ACTIVATED AND THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HAS ASSUMED DIRECTION AND CONTROL.**

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1. On receipt of an EAL Notification Message containing Protective Action Recommendations from one of the Nuclear Power facilities affecting North Carolina the SERT Leader will activate the Decision Line polling the associated Risk Counties (See Para II.B).
2. The SERT Leader will request concurrence on whether or not activation of the public notification system is required based on current conditions. If activation of the system is determined, the SERT Leader will recommend the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence. A proposed time will be made for siren activation and message transmission in coordination with all agencies.  
\* (For events with the Catawba Nuclear Station, the SC SEOC will be the Lead Agency to recommend the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence from NC agencies.)
3. If concurrence is not received on the first call, the SERT Leader will wait no more than three minutes, and re-poll the associated Risk Counties for their concurrence. After all parties agree, or after appropriate message changes are made, the SEOC Communications Center transmit the agreed upon EAS message.  
\* (For events with the Catawba Nuclear Station, the SC SEOC will be the Lead Agency for recommending the EAS message for broadcast and request concurrence from NC agencies.)
4. The SEOC Communications Center will then contact the applicable NWS office and request the tone alert radio systems be activated at the time agreed upon by the State and counties. This activation should be no later than 10 minutes after the established siren activation time.
5. The SERT Leader will request the Lead County to coordinate siren activation. All counties will then direct their siren activation points to activate the siren system at the previously agreed upon time. They may elect to use a siren countdown for activation.
6. If sirens do not fully activate, back-up route alerting for those areas which did not have siren activation will be accomplished by the individual counties.
7. Once notification has been made, the SEOC Communications Officer will transmit a hard copy of the Notification Message to the NWS office, LP-1 station and Risk County EOC's. The SERT PIO will also be provided a copy to be sent to the JIC.

**L. COUNTY WARNING POINT EMERGENCY ACTIVATION OF EAS**

1. If the initial Nuclear Facility Emergency Notification Form (EM-78) received indicates a facility declaration of "General Emergency" WITH a recommendation for PROTECTIVE ACTION to be taken, AND the Lead County (See Para II.A) Warning Point telecommunications center is UNABLE to contact any key official within the designated time period, the Lead County warning point lead telecommunicator or telecommunication supervisor will accomplish the following actions:

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- a. Activate the Selective Signaling System (SSS), contacting the associated Risk Counties warning points and the North Carolina SEOC Communications Center (and South Carolina SEOC for Catawba). The warning point telecommunication supervisor will recommend the EAS message to be used for the situation and request concurrence.
  - b. After all parties agree, or appropriate message changes are made, the Lead County will request the North Carolina SEOC Communications Center (or South Carolina SEOC for Catawba), to transmit the agreed upon EAS message. A time will be established for siren activation in coordination with all agencies.
2. The SEOC will activate EAS at the time agreed upon following the first three minute siren sounding. The SEOC will then contact the applicable NWS office and request tone alert radio systems be activated. The NWS tone alert radio systems should be activated no later than 10 minutes after the established siren activation time.
  3. The Lead County is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the activation of these critical warning systems with the appropriate Risk Counties. All counties will then direct their siren activation points to activate the siren at the previously agreed upon time. They may elect to use a siren countdown for activation. The Selective Signaling System (SSS) should remain open until all systems have been coordinated and activated.
  4. Following SEOC notification, the Lead County telecommunications center will transmit a hard copy of the Notification Message to the SEOC, applicable NWS office, associated Risk County EOC's. The State SEOC will provide a copy to the SERT PIO who will send a copy to the JIC (when activated).

**VI. ACTIVATION AUTHORITIES**

**A. STATE**

1. Governor or the designated representative
2. Secretary, Crime Control & Public Safety
3. Director, Emergency Management (SERT leader)
4. NCEM Duty Officer
5. NCEM Communications Officer (If UNABLE to contact any of the above listed officials within the designated time period.)

**B. COUNTIES**

1. County Manager
2. County Emergency Management Coordinator or alternate
3. Chairman of the County Commissioners or designated representative



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- C.** The authentication code list for verifying EAS activation will be provided to authorized agencies by North Carolina Emergency Management.

**NOTE:** While any of the above county officials may request the activation of the EAS system, **ONLY** the County Emergency Management Coordinator has the authentication codes required to authenticate and transmit the message.