
CIVIL NUCLEAR EMERGENCY PLANNING

CONSOLIDATED GUIDANCE

Prepared by the
Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group

dti

NEPLG CONSOLIDATED GUIDANCE

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Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter 1: Introduction

Introduction

- I.1 The Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group (NEPLG) is a forum which brings together, under Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) chairmanship, a wide range of organisations with interests in off-site planning for an emergency at a civil nuclear licensed site. The Group identifies, discusses and finds solutions to common problems, and agrees improvements in planning, procedure and organisation which would form a framework of advice to emergency planners. Its full terms of reference and membership are at Annex 1.1. A diagram illustrating the NEPLG lifecycle is at Annex 1.2.
- I.2 NEPLG was established in 1990. Since then it has met twice a year and formulated guidance on a wide range of emergency planning issues, taking into account national and international best practice. Most of the detailed work in preparing this guidance has been taken forward in Sub-Groups which have met, and continue to meet, on a more frequent basis to prepare and review proposed guidance which is endorsed by the main group prior to issue. Some of these Sub-Groups have limited tasks and have a limited lifespan for the duration of consideration of the particular topic. However, there are also two permanent Sub-Groups, each of which generally meets twice a year. The Process Review Sub-Group, which DTI chairs, looks forward to new developments in civil nuclear emergency planning, and advises NEPLG on priorities and future work. It also considers, and makes recommendations for amendments to the Consolidated Guidance. The Lessons Learned Sub-Group, which NII chairs, proposes a draft report to NEPLG summarising the lessons of the exercises held during the previous planning year. It also oversees the progress and action tracking of lessons from exercises (see Chapter 5 on the Testing of Off-Site Preparedness).
- I.3 NEPLG guidance has been disseminated in a series of "principles" documents and reports since 1990. The purpose of this Handbook is to consolidate all of that guidance into one document for general reference by planners and practitioners concerned with emergency response at civil nuclear sites. This guidance therefore supersedes NEPLG papers 1 to 7 and 9 to 14. NEPLG paper 8 "Glossary of Civil Nuclear Terms" still stands. As the Handbook is based on the general principles that apply to all emergency planning, it may also be applicable to emergency planning beyond the nuclear industry as a good practice guide.

- I.4 This Handbook explains positions agreed in NEPLG on topics and aspects of civil nuclear emergency response identified by it as requiring clarification and elucidation. Where appropriate, it explains the background to deliberations by the Group, but in many cases where the topic is the subject of longstanding policy, or where it comprises a minor improvement, this sort of explanation is not considered necessary. The Handbook does not provide a comprehensive description of civil nuclear response arrangements. Descriptions can be found in the HSE booklet "Arrangements for responding to nuclear emergencies"¹, with more relevant information in the NRPB publication "Living with Radiation"². A broader picture of emergency response arrangements generally can be found in the Cabinet Office publication "Dealing with Disaster"³ and the Scottish Executive booklet "Dealing with Disasters Together"⁴.
- I.5 This Handbook, in line with the NEPLG Terms of Reference, is about the response to an emergency at a civil nuclear site; i.e. the consequence management of the emergency affecting people and the environment. The response arrangements could be put into effect regardless of the nature of the initiating event, whether it be an accident or terrorist incident. This Handbook is not concerned with the direct response to a terrorist incident where the Police and Security Agencies have well tried and practised contingency arrangements working under Home Office aegis. We would expect the two sets of arrangements to work side by side, but if questions did arise over the primacy of response this would be decided at the time by the Police Strategic Commander, consulting as necessary. The arrangements in this Handbook would constitute the response to the off-site radiological release in every case.
- I.6 The guidance in this Handbook has been divided into three parts. Part 1 deals with the Arrangements for Nuclear Emergency Planning in the UK providing a framework for planning and testing of off-site preparedness. Part 2 deals with the Emergency Phase, when urgent action needs to be taken to protect the public and which must clearly be given priority in responding to an emergency at a civil nuclear site. Part 3 deals with the Recovery Phase, the period after the termination of the release when return to normality and longer term countermeasures to protect the public are being considered and implemented. In the recovery phase the same general principles apply as in the emergency phase, but there would, in practice, be more time for resolution of problems.
- I.7 Emergency preparedness in respect of civil nuclear sites was the subject of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR) 2001 which concentrate on requirements of the emergency phase of any accident at a civil nuclear site. Parts 1 and 2 of this Handbook may therefore be of particular interest to duty holders and others involved in implementing these Regulations.

- I.8 This Handbook has been prepared by DTI working in close liaison with other NEPLG members. It will be subject to regular monitoring and review by NEPLG; a process which relies on the close involvement of NEPLG members and, through them, other planners and practitioners in emergency response organisations. DTI would normally take the lead with the review and update of the Handbook, although the Process Review Sub-Group may delegate the lead in consideration of specific tasks and topics to other organisations. DTI would also normally take the lead in consultations on matters requiring consideration by other parts of central Government such as the Cabinet Office and Home Office. The breakdown of central Government lead department responsibilities are set out in the ukresilience website: www.ukresilience/handling.htm
- I.9 Copies of this Handbook have been made available to NEPLG members and their constituent organisations, and have also been passed to other interested parties. It is on the DTI website: www2.dti.gov.uk/energy/nuclear/safety/nep1g_guide.shtml where updates and amendments can be obtained. Dissemination of this Handbook, or of its updates and amendments, to emergency response organisations is via their representative on NEPLG. Now that the initial distribution of the Handbook has taken place, we would expect this to be by alerts to emergency response organisations that the Handbook in its latest version is available for downloading on the DTI website. Those response organisations should then discuss the new guidance at the local level and integrate it, as appropriate, into their emergency plans. It would be tested in exercises, and the lessons fed back to NEPLG through the exercise reporting arrangements. It is therefore important that NEPLG members ensure that all relevant personnel in their constituent organisations are aware of the Handbook's contents. The nuclear operators should also ensure that members of local emergency planning consultative committees and councils are made aware of the Handbook, and where copies can be obtained.

NUCLEAR EMERGENCY PLANNING LIAISON GROUP (NEPLG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The NEPLG is a national forum which brings together organisations with interests in off-site planning for an emergency at a civil nuclear licensed site.

The Group identifies, discusses and finds solutions to common problems and decides upon how these issues should be taken forward.

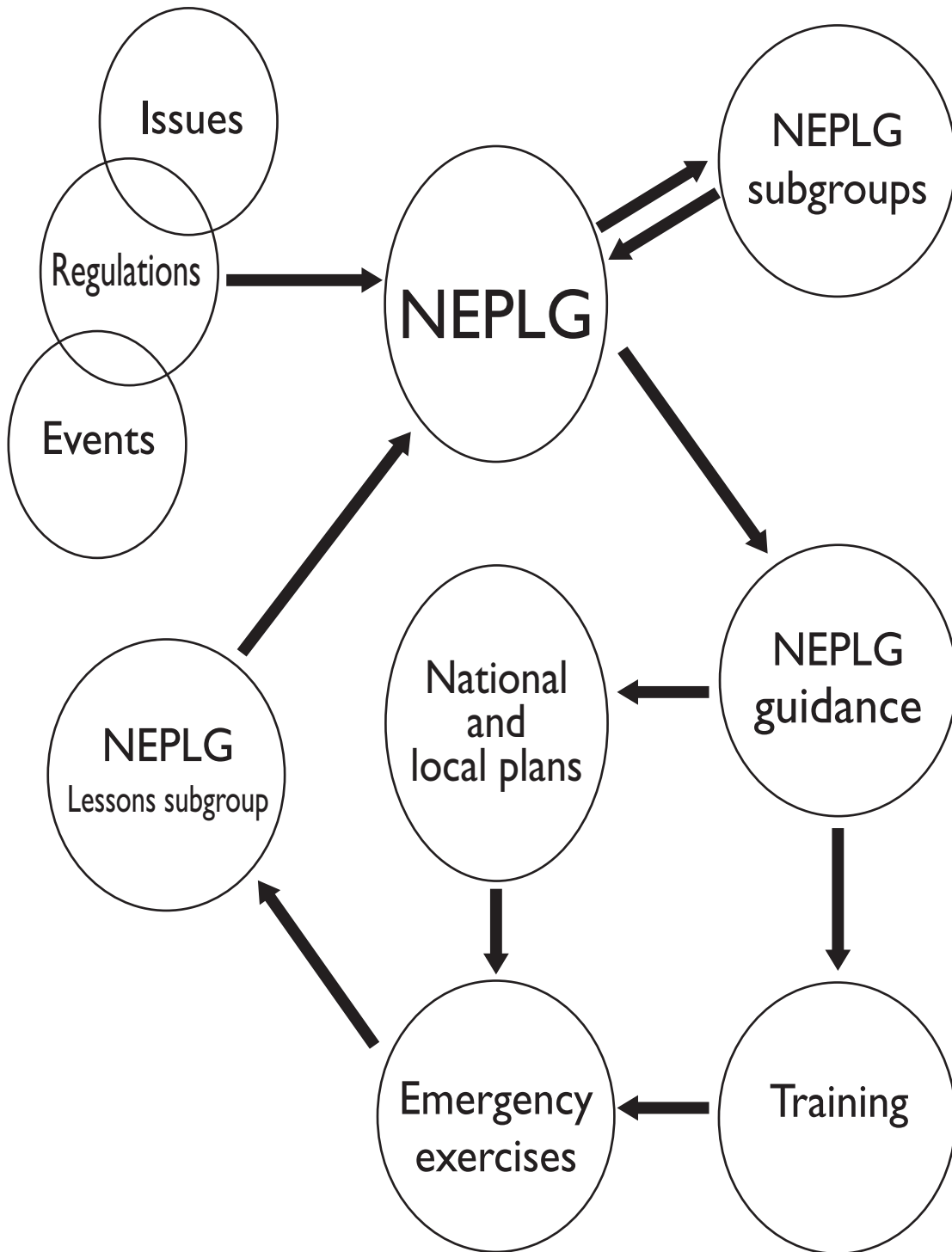
The Group agrees improvements in planning, procedure and organisation which might form a framework of advice to nuclear operators, the emergency services and those other organisations that may be involved in the response to a nuclear emergency.

The Group will set up Sub-Groups and working Groups as necessary to bring forward suggestions for improvements in planning procedure and organisation.

MEMBERSHIP

Department of Trade and Industry
Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland
UK Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary
Health and Safety Executive
Cabinet Office
Scottish Executive
British Energy
British Nuclear Fuels/Magnox Generation
British Nuclear Fuels
UK Atomic Energy Authority
URENCO
National Radiological Protection Board
Department of Health
Scottish Executive Health Department
Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association
Ambulance Service Association
Ministry of Defence
Food Standards Agency
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions
Environment Agency
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Meteorological Office
National Assembly for Wales
Emergency Planning Society
Local Government Association
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

- Information to public
- Recovery
- Regulations
- Monitoring co-ordination



Lifecycle of NEPLG operation