



KDHE Participates in Successful Wolf Creek Exercise

A very successful emergency response exercise evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was held in Kansas on June 3, 2009. This exercise involved an incident at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Many KDHE staff participated in this exercise. In preparation for this evaluated exercise, KDHE staff attended training classes, reviewed plans and procedures and participated in three practice drills.

During their exit meeting, FEMA provided preliminary comments on the results of the evaluated exercise. FEMA stated that this was a “very good exercise,” and that “everyone who participated should be proud.” There were no “deficiencies” or “areas requiring corrective action” identified by FEMA, and only a few minor planning issues were mentioned.

KDHE staff participated in this exercise in three main locations: the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Topeka, Kansas; the Wolf Creek Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) in Burlington, Kansas; and also on Joint Radiological Monitoring Teams which performed monitoring and sampling of the environs surrounding the nuclear power plant.

At the SEOC, FEMA evaluated ten exercise criteria that were required to be demonstrated. Rick Brunetti, Bureau of Air and Radiation Director, served as a unified commander jointly with Angee Morgan of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and Tim Sipe, Coffey County Commission, at this facility. Preliminary comments by the evaluators suggested that excellent direction and control and good coordination between KDEM, KDHE and Coffey County was demonstrated. Additional KDHE staff who participated at the SEOC during the evaluated exercise included Isabelle Busenitz, Mike Martin, Rex Cox, Ingrid Garrison, and Maggie Thompson.

At the Wolf Creek EOF, FEMA evaluated 18 exercise criteria that required demonstration by KDHE and KDEM. Preliminary comments by the evaluators stated that the KDHE staff displayed expertise in their duties and were very proactive in anticipating and preparing for evolving emergency conditions. KDHE staff who participated at this facility were Tom Conley, Kim Steves, David Whitfill, Jim Harris, Stewart Steen, David Lawrenz, and Shay Hannah.

Seven criteria were evaluated for the Joint Radiological Monitoring Teams. Joint Radiological Monitoring Team members include staff from KDHE, Wolf Creek, and Coffey County. FEMA evaluators stated that the team members displayed excellent teamwork and good knowledge of their procedures, and that the teams were quick to recognize potential hazards. KDHE Joint Radiological Monitoring Team members were Judee Walden, Jason Barney, Jay Schalansky, and Brent Gordy.

For more information about Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation go to:
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