

Siren Problems & Criminal Activity

- May 2, 2000 - "...a supervisor at the York County '911' center inadvertently activated the York County portion of the alert and notification sirens". (IR 05000277 & 278/2000-002).

- On August, 15, 2001, the NRC's Office of Investigation documented **criminal behavior** by two of Exelon's Emergency Preparedness personnel. The NRC found that the "**technicians fabricated siren testing maintenance records**, performed deficient siren tests on the off site EP response sirens and intentionally installed jumper wires in the siren boxes disabling important system functions." (Wayne D. Lanning, NRC, Director of Reactor Safety.) (Refer to August 22, 2001, for background information, and see October 23, 2001, for penalty assessment.) (See June 22 & November 7, 2001, for related developments.) (See October 5-9, 2001, for a related problem at TMI.)

- On August 22, 2001, the NRC determined that a white "finding" (Violation) was warranted for the following infractions relating to the plants Public Address (PA) system and evacuation alarm/siren (EA) system. Hubert J. Miller, NRC, Regional Administrator concluded:

- From 1992 to December 19, 2000, approximately 47% of the PA system's speakers were either inaudible or degraded to the point that personnel were not able to clearly hear instructions.

- From January 19, 2001 to February 13, 2001, and again from March 20, 2001 to April 17, 2001, the plant PA system was operated only on the backup power breaker, which would have tripped after about 49 seconds of evacuation alarm actuation on the first sequence (The primary breaker had tripped following the monthly test the beginning of each period.)

- On February 13 and April 17, 2001, the plant PA/EA system would not properly function in that both the primary and the backup breakers were tripped for periods of 4.5 hours and 1.5 hours resulting in no system capability to provide instruction or sound the evacuation alarm.

- October 5-9, 2001 - At TMI, "Licensee sirens in Lancaster County were inoperable October 5 through October 9, 2001, due to a radio transmitter being deenergized at the county facility. The transmitter is part of the siren actuation system. This issue is unresolved pending further investigation into the lines of ownership and maintenance of the actuation system" (IR 50-289/01-07.) (See August 15, 2001, for a related problem at Peach Bottom.)

- October 23, 2001 - On August, 15, 2001, the NRC's Office of Investigation documented criminal behavior by two of Exelon's Emergency Preparedness personnel.

In accordance with the Enforcement Policy, a base civil penalty in the amount of \$55,000 is considered for Severity Level III violation or problem. Because the Severity Level problem was deliberate, the NRC considered whether credit was warranted for *Identification* and *Corrective Action* in accordance with the civil penalty assessment process in Section VI.C.2 of the Enforcement Policy. In this case, the NRC decided that credit for Identification is warranted because you identified the misconduct and informed the NRC." (Hubert Miller, NRC, Regional Administrator, October 23, 2001).

- On January 11, 2002 - Siren testing at TMI encountered numerous problems: all sirens failed in York County and one siren failed in Lancaster County. AmerGen attributed to computer malfunctions.

- On March 3, 2002, a siren malfunctioned in York County again. During TMI's annual test on January 30, 2002, all 34 sirens in York County, located within ten-miles of the plant, failed to activate.

- On June 25, 2002, "...station emergency preparedness personnel [at TMI] discovered that the emergency planning siren base station at the site, was unable to communicate with the off site sirens, due to external radio frequency noise in the area" (IR-50-277/02-05; 50-278/02-05)

- On December 12, 2002, TMI sirens malfunctioned in Cumberland and York counties. In Dauphin County, 28 sirens malfunctioned due to the "inadvertent" discharge of the "space bar" by a computer operator (Refer to June 22, August 15 and October 5-9, 2001 and January 11, March 3 2002, for related problems.)