

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION
WITHIN THE
NATIONAL LLW INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The U.S. Department of Energy, with operational assistance from EG&G Idaho, Inc., maintains the National Low-Level Waste Information Management System, a relational data base management system with extensive information collection and reporting capabilities. The system operates on an IBM 4341 main-frame computer in Idaho Falls, Idaho and is accessible through terminals in 46 states.

One of the many programs available on the system is an emergency response data network, which was developed jointly by EG&G Idaho, Inc. and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As a prototype, the program comprises emergency response team contacts, policies, activities and decisions; federal, state and local government contacts; facility and support center locations; and news releases for nine reactor sites in the southeast.

The emergency response program provides a method for consolidating currently fragmented information into a central and user-friendly system. When the program is implemented, immediate answers to response questions will be available through a remote terminal or telephone on a 24-hour basis. In view of current hazardous and low-level waste shipment rates and future movements of high-level waste, the program can offer needed and timely information for transportation as well as site incident response.

In preparing its guidance for radiological emergency response plans and preparedness for transportation accidents (FEMA-REP-5), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) noted three recurring response problems related to communications:

- o Lack of coordination among various responsible agencies;
- o Inadequate communication between persons at the accident site and persons representing emergency response agencies; and
- o Overreaction by the public due to failure of federal, state and local response organizations to develop accurate and timely communications with the news media.

Similar observations were expressed by state radiological health directors at the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Emergency Response Council. Within that group, a general dissatisfaction exists regarding the current practice of communicating public information and press releases via slow and often unreliable telecopier equipment. Clearly, a comprehensive and easily-accessed computer network would contribute significantly to the elimination of these problems. Recognizing this potential, FEMA and EG&G Idaho, Inc. jointly developed an emergency response information prototype.

The emergency response information program is one of several available on the National Low-Level Waste Management Information System, a relational

data base management system with extensive information collection and reporting capabilities. The U.S. Department of Energy maintains the system on an IBM 4341 main-frame computer in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and EG&G Idaho, Inc. provides operational support.

The prototype created by FEMA and EG&G Idaho, Inc. presents information in a site-specific format. The menu-driven program comprises data on facility locations; response team contacts; policies, activities and decisions; federal, state and local government contacts; and news releases. The master menu offers three general data choices and two data base maintenance selections:

1. SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN INFORMATION
2. ERT STAFF INFORMATION
3. ERT INFORMATION
4. UPDATE ERT INFORMATION
5. ADD, CHANGE OR DELETE SITE PLAN DATA
- X. LOGOUT
- >

Fig. 1 Emergency Response Team Master Menu

As developed, the ERT (emergency response team) headings of the prototype refer to FEMA-specific input. This can vary, however, depending on user needs. For example, a state agency that implements the communications program may choose to enter its own policies, activities, decisions and news releases in the ERT Information database.

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ENTER NUMBER DESIRED AND HIT RETURN
1.  ERT POLICY.
2.  ERT ACTIVITIES/DECISIONS.
3.  ERT NEWS RELEASES.
X.  RETURN TO MASTER MENU.

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Fig. 2 ERT Information Menu

Facility locations and area emergency response contacts are accessed with the Site-Specific Plan Information selection of the master menu. Upon providing the name of the nuclear power plant in the area of interest, the following submenu is generated:

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ENTER NAME OF SITE>EDWIN I. HATCH
SITE SPECIFIC PLAN MENU
SITE: EDWIN I. HATCH
1.  FACILITY LOCATION (SITE DESCRIPTION)
2.  TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTER (TSC) LOCATIONS
3.  OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER (OSC) LOCATIONS
4.  CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER - MEDIA CENTER EOF LOCATIONS
5.  STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (SEOC) LOCATIONS
6.  STATE FORWARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (FECC) LOCATIONS
7.  KEY CONTACTS
X.  RETURN TO MASTER MENU
ENTER SELECTION NUMBER>123456

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FACILITY LOCATION
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EDWIN I. HATCH
APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES NORTH OF BAXLEY,
GEORGIA EAST OF U.S. HIGHWAY 1 AND SOUTH
OF ALTAMAHA RIVER.

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Fig. 3 Site Specific Plan Menu and Example

A third-level menu allows the user to obtain data on key personnel to be notified in the event of a radiological emergency. The key contacts directory provides the name; duty location, telephone number and telecopier number; off-duty location and telephone number; and pager telephone number of each person listed.

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1.  FACILITY OPERATING PERSONNEL
2.  STATE GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL
3.  FEDERAL AGENCY PERSONNEL
4.  MILITARY PERSONNEL
5.  LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL
6.  FEMA ERT PERSONNEL
7.  CONGRESSIONAL WASHINGTON PERSONNEL
8.  CONGRESSIONAL LOCAL PERSONNEL
X.  RETURN TO SITE MENU
ENTER CONTACT SELECTION>2

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STATE GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL
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EDWIN I. HATCH
NAME:                SETSER, JAMES L. - CHIEF, PROG COORD
DUTY LOCATION:       DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DUTY TELEPHONE:     404-656-4300
DUTY TELECOPIER NUMBER:
OFF DUTY LOCATION:
OFF DUTY TELEPHONE:
PAGER TELEPHONE:

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Fig. 4. Key Contacts Menu and Example

At present 46 state agencies are equipped with U.S. Department of Energy-supplied computer terminals that tie into the national system. The emergency response information program is additionally capable of providing data through the use of an IBM-PC. Minor programming modifications will allow access through many other types of computers as well, including portable "field" terminals for use in site or transportation emergencies.

The emergency response information program provides a method of consolidating currently fragmented data into a central and user-friendly system. The Southern States Energy Board and EG&G Idaho, Inc. are currently in the process of expanding the data base to encompass the emergency response information of three of the 16 member states of the Southern Emergency Response Council. The states will then test the speed and efficiency of data acquisition. When the program is implemented, immediate information will be available through a remote terminal or telephone on a 24-hour basis. In view of current hazardous and low-level waste shipment rates and the anticipated movement of high-level waste, the program offers needed and timely information for transportation as well as site incident response.