



Department of Energy & Climate Change

Department of Energy and Climate Change: Nuclear Emergency Planning

- Following the events in 2011 at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan, the then Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman produced a report recommending (amongst other recommendations) that the UK should review its own national nuclear emergency arrangements to ensure they were as robust as possible and could deal effectively with severe or prolonged nuclear incidents.
- The UK Government and its partners are reviewing the UK's approach to severe emergencies by examining the decisions and actions that were taken in Japan to protect the public, and considering any lessons that the UK could learn from those actions. More specifically, this includes reviewing current extendibility arrangements (extendibility planning is local level planning for severe or prolonged events). This work is underway and is being led by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).
- Local Authorities and operators should continue to refer to, and use, the current published guidance on extendibility which can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69113/NEPLG_guidance_ch_9_-_extendibility.pdf
- The review of current extendibility arrangements forms part of a wider UK commitment to ensure that nuclear emergency arrangements continually evolve in response to changing circumstances, improved techniques, and lessons learnt from emergency exercises and real events. These changes are also consistent with good practice benchmarks adopted internationally.
- DECC can confirm that Suffolk County Council/Suffolk Resilience Forum have considered published guidance on best practice for extendibility within their off-site plan. This guidance is based on a hypothetical beyond design basis event. Suffolk's off-site plan, including the extendibility aspects, was tested through an emergency exercise run in May this year.

Any further enquiries regarding the review of current extendibility arrangements or related work should be directed to DECC via the following email address:

correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk