

Energy Systems at Portsmouth

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Demonstrates response strengths and weaknesses

Emergency drill provides invaluable experience

The full-scale emergency preparedness drill July 23 at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant involved more than 500 people, including 150 volunteers, from Martin Marietta Energy Systems, the U.S. Department of Energy, Pike County and the State of Ohio.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the coordinated emergency response capabilities of Energy Systems, the Pike County Emergency Management Agency and response squads, and various agencies of the State, including the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

A second goal was to strengthen the readiness of emergency response actions and equipment in the unlikely event of a major plant incident that could affect the surrounding community.

The exercise involved personnel of 35 agencies and organizations and was the most extensive emergency preparedness exercise ever conducted at the Portsmouth plant or in Pike County.

"This effort brought together participants with extensive experience in emergency preparedness and long-established working relationships to test their capabilities in major fashion," said Carl Weghorst, Emergency Teamwork '88 and Martin Marietta Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

The "Emergency Teamwork '88" drill was designed to test 71 exercise objectives developed by participating agencies. The

exercise was controlled by Management Systems Laboratories (MSL), an emergency preparedness consulting organization associated with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. MSL guided 26 evaluators at 14 activity sites, 30 site controllers, eight video teams, two photographers and role players.

The "disaster" scenario, delayed that morning for more than one hour because of thunderstorms, involved a simulated on-site collision between a tanker truck loaded with 7,000 gallons of gasoline and two flatbed rail cars, each of which carried two 10-ton cylinders of uranium hexafluoride. The incident was compounded by simulation of rupture of two of the cylinders, a gasoline fire and six persons injured.

Martin Marietta and DOE work hard to assure that an event of such magnitude would not happen. Staged exercises at this level provide the benefit of practice and experience.

The scenario was not revealed to participants in advance.

The drill required activation of respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) for the plant, Pike County, DOE and the State of Ohio.

At the plant, emergency activities were directed from the new X-1020 Building Emergency Control Center (ECC) and the X-300 Building EOC. Pike County Emergency Medical Service and Fire Depart-

ment staffs and equipment were dispatched from the county's EOC at the Waverly Fire Station. The exercise also involved activities at the Emergency Operations Center for the State of Ohio and the U.S. Department of Energy at both Oak Ridge and Washington, D.C. The Department of Energy also participated at the site through its Portsmouth Enrichment Office.

The scenario, which escalated the incident to "General Emergency" status, prompted use of the plant's "Two-Mile Radius" Immediate Notification Zone public warning siren system; test messages carried on the local Emergency Broadcast System (EBS); operation of rescue equipment such as ambulances and fire trucks; and a Joint Public Information Center (JPIC), where spokespersons for the response groups briefed news media representatives and answered questions.

Through personal mailings and news media bulletins, neighbors near the plant knew that an emergency exercise would be in progress, that the public warning sirens would be sounded that morning, and that there was no cause for alarm. Through training sessions conducted in April and May and mailing of the plant's warning siren brochure, local people know that in a real emergency, they would be required to shelter-in-place and await further instructions.

Critiques and Follow-Up Actions

Later that afternoon following the exer-

cise, players gathered for two hours to assess their performance in a formal critique session. The plant and MSL also conducted a critique of the exercise for the public later that evening at the Vern Riffe (Pike County) Joint Vocational School.

The exercise was considered successful by both company and MSL officials, and areas requiring improvement were identified in preliminary evaluation during the two critique sessions. Exercise controllers from MSL have since prepared a formal report to plant management which identifies shortcomings and additional resources that are required.

Participating agencies will implement recommendations contained in the evaluation report and meet in early January to review their progress on corrective actions. Such a full-scale exercise will be conducted every two years to test the continuing state of plant emergency preparedness.

Participating Organizations

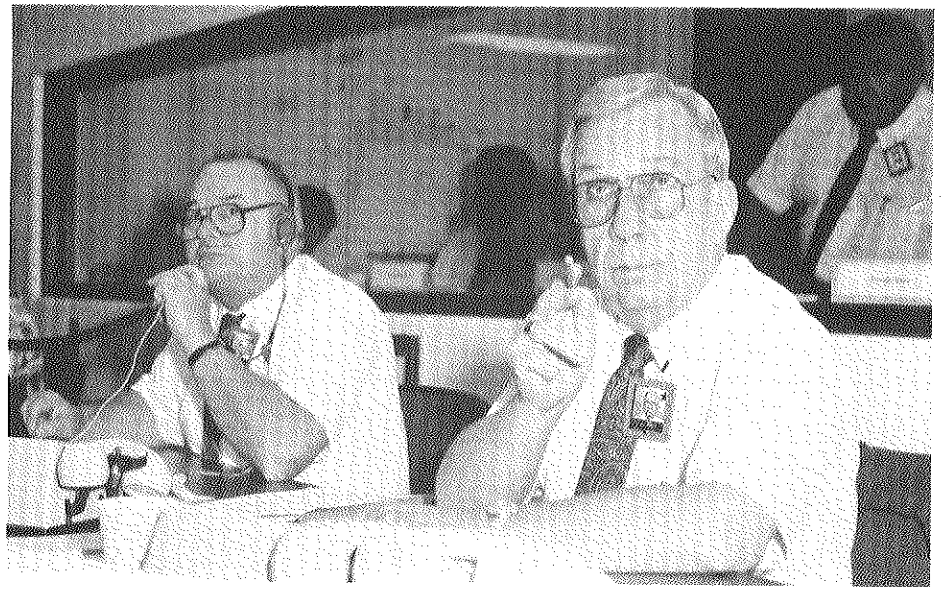
Organizations involved in Emergency Teamwork '88 included the United States Department of Energy (Washington, D.C., and Oak Ridge, Tenn.); Pike County's Emergency Management Agency, Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical Service, Engineer's office, and Health Department; fire departments from the communities of Beaver, Elm Grove, Stockdale, Camp Creek, and Waverly; fire departments for the townships of Benton, Jackson, Pebble and Piketon-Seal; Pike Community Hospital; the State of Ohio's Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Highway Patrol, and Departments of Health and Transportation; and the American Red Cross.

Portsmouth Little Theater members roleplayed as plant employee victims.

Guests on a VIP tour of various exercise sites conducted throughout the morning included State of Ohio, DOE, Pike County and Martin Marietta officials; managers of other DOE contractors; members of the Portsmouth plant's Environmental Advisory Committee; and officials of Scioto County, Ohio, and Greenup County, Kentucky.

(See "Experience" on Page 4)





Plant coordinator pleased

"Without support and cooperation by all those involved, the exercise wouldn't have been successful," stated Carl Weghorst, coordinator of the plant's Emergency Preparedness Department.

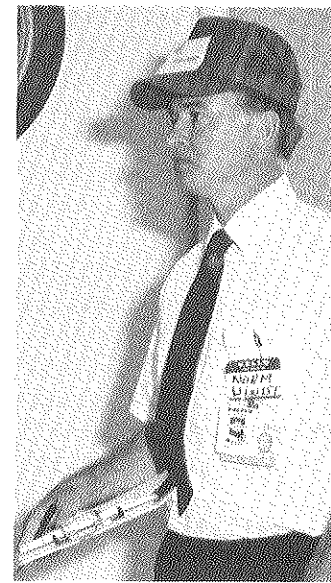
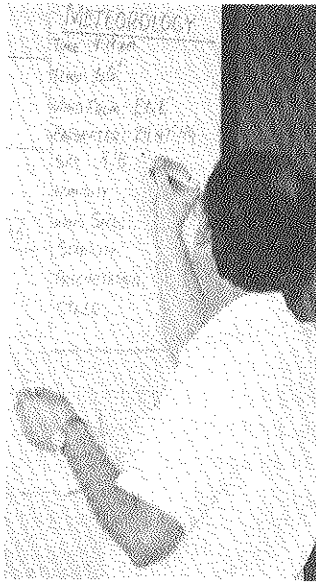
Weghorst refers to the outcome of Emergency Teamwork '88, the July exercise that involved more than 500 participants and tested coordinated emergency response capabilities in the largest drill ever conducted at the Portsmouth plant or in Pike County.

The advisory committee for Emergency Teamwork '88 began work in December 1987 by addressing issues specific to the exercise and meeting on a monthly basis to keep abreast of all committee activities.

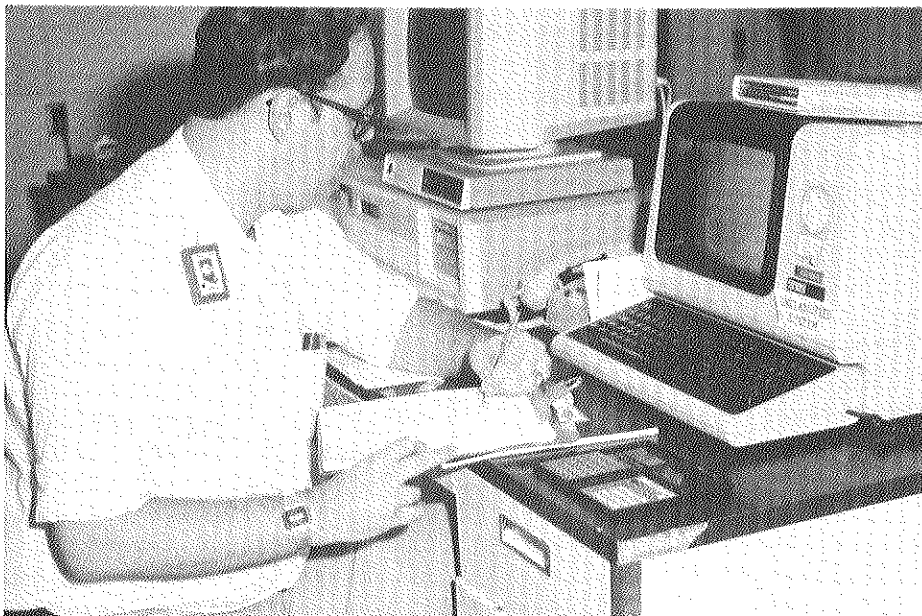
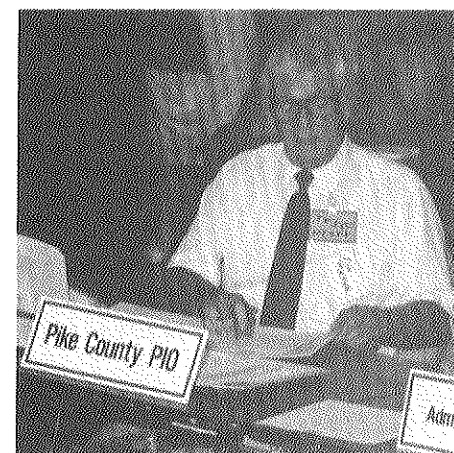
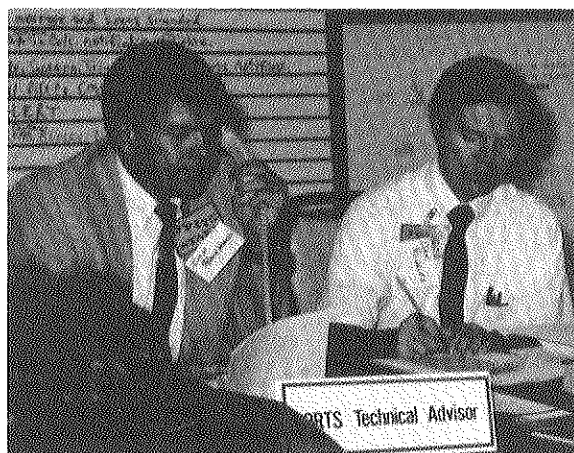
"We received nothing but cooperation from the various plant departments," Weghorst continued. "When you think that the X-1020 Building had its first shovel of dirt removed in January and the plant's Emergency Control Center was operational in June, it's almost staggering to the imagination."

Behind the scenes of Emergency Teamwork '88, evaluators and controllers for the exercise did not see that all supply deliveries were on schedule; the efforts required to computerize visual/briefing aids and encase them for a professional look; the artistry to coordinate plant and carpentry skills; the loan of equipment such as computers, radios, television monitors, and a fleet of vehicles for July 23; and efforts required to remodel an entire building, install a two-mile public warning siren system, and incorporate the concept of the Joint Public Information Center (JPIC).

"This exercise further cemented teamwork efforts at the Portsmouth plant," said Weghorst. "We appreciate and commend the efforts of the hundreds of plant employees and members of local community organizations who assisted with the preparation for, and completion of, this full-scale exercise."



Clockwise, from top left, rescue personnel transport an injured victim; Carl Weghorst and Bill Kouns respond to the simulated emergency in the plant ECC; Pike County Squad 4 members arrive with a simulated injury victim at Pike Community Hospital; Norm Windt, Paducah's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, was one of several who evaluated the exercise; Waverly Assistant Fire Chief and plant employee Greg Barch posts meteorological information in the Pike County EOC; Portsmouth Little Theatre players Brian Davis and Cleo Frank apply simulated injury moulage before the drill; and Ginnie Wagner and Helen Jordan, of the plant Medical Department, treat a patient.



Clockwise, from top left, Pike Community Hospital nurses assess a patient's condition; Don Rockhold and Dan Ruggles fulfill the role of technical advisors in the JPIC; Jim Pieper, Pike County's Public Information Officer, at work in the JPIC; Commissioner Ralph Brewster, Pike County Emergency Management Agency Director Earl James, Greg Burch, Waverly Fire Chief Randy Armbruster and Sheriff Jim Dixon plan response actions in the Pike County EOC; Sheriff Dixon suggests a course of action; Greg Goslow records environmental data in the plant ECC; Ralph Donnelly, Bob Bush and John Shoemaker plan response strategy in the plant ECC.

County director confident

More than 200 Pike Countians volunteered their time to work with the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in preparation for Emergency Teamwork '88.

In addition to other efforts, preparation undertaken by these volunteers included 16 hours of hazardous materials training toward a 24-hour federal requirement.

"Many hours by many people were involved in Emergency Teamwork '88," reflected Earl James, director of Pike County Emergency Management Agency. "Five emergency medical squads and nine fire departments proved that they were willing, able and ready to respond to any type of emergency."

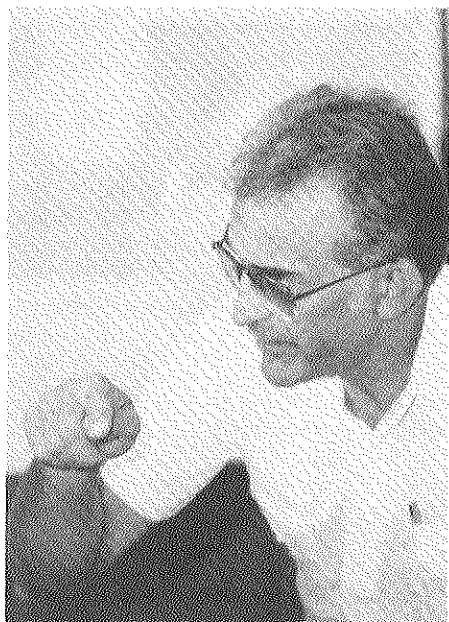
The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant has signed mutual aid agreements with Waverly, Piketon, and Beaver Fire Departments in Pike County and Valley Township Fire Department in Scioto County, but because of existing mutual aid agreements between the various fire departments, the amount of assistance available to the Portsmouth Plant is almost limitless.

Teamwork '88 participants assembled from county emergency forces were Waverly, Beaver, Piketon, Elm Grove, and Benton Township emergency medical services and fire departments from Beaver, Benton Township, Camp Creek, Elm Grove, Jackson Township, Pebble Township, Piketon-Seal Township, Stockdale and Waverly.

Benefits of the exercise for Pike County included the establishment of its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide assistance to county units in the event of a major accident or incident within the county and the opportunity to test systems such as Emergency Broadcast and the public warning sirens.

The county's EOC contained representation from the Sheriff's Department, the Ohio Highway Patrol, Pike Community Hospital, county school system, county commissioners, mayors, Board of Health, and the engineer's office.

"The exercise was a good learning experience, a lot was accomplished, and the abilities of our volunteer forces made believers out of many, many people," James concluded.



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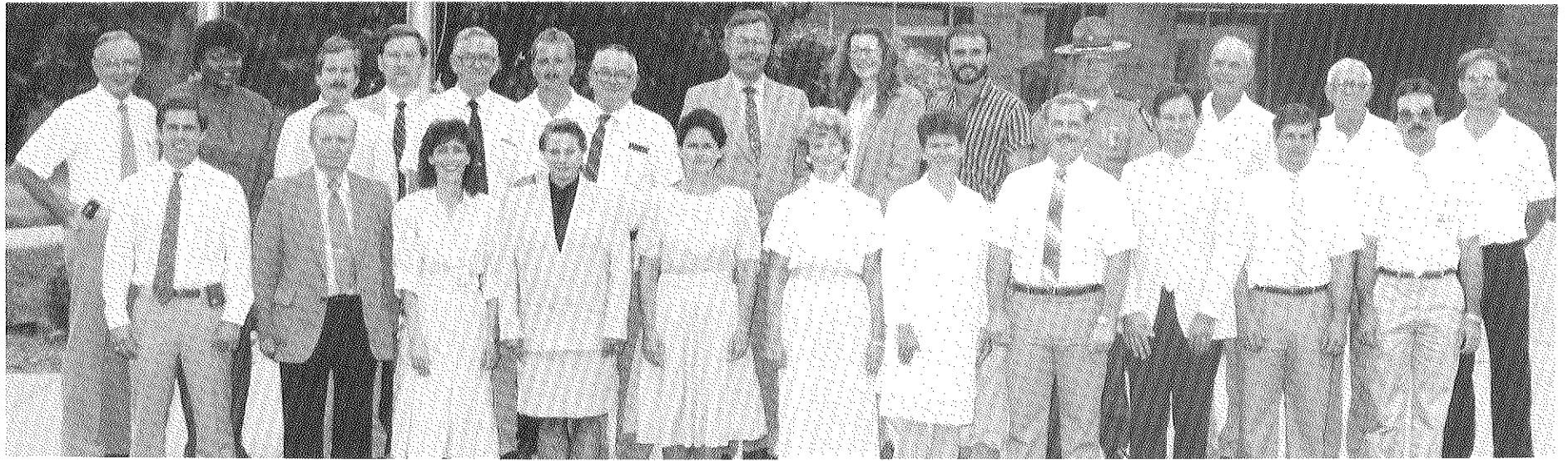
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The Emergency Teamwork '88 Advisory Committee included (front row) Greg Lang, MMES radio engineer; Bill Carlson, Ohio Emergency Management Agency; Jane Johnson, MMES Public Relations; Tegwyn Evans, MSL; Cheryl Bauer, MMES Emergency Preparedness; Joyce Thompson, Pike County Department of Health; Vickie Keaton, Pike Community Hospital; Doug Trout, MMES Emergency Preparedness; Doug Rogers, Ohio Department of Health; Ben Wilmoth, Ohio Department of Health; Kevin Zumbro, Ohio EPA; (back row) John Delabar, MMES Shift

Superintendent; Laurreta Lee, Ohio Department of Health; Joe Moore, MMES IHHP Department; Tim Matchett, MMES Public Relations; Earl James, Pike County EMA director; Randy Armbruster, Waverly Fire Chief; Carl Weghorst, director, MMES Emergency Preparedness; Ken Cole, Ohio EMA; Cheryl Stovall, MSL; Bryant Lybrook, MMES Videography; Lt. Dean Conklin, Commander, Post 73, Ohio Highway Patrol; Ralph Brewster, Pike County Commissioner; Jim Pieper, Public Information Officer, Pike County EMA; and Lee Lawson, MMES Videography.

JPIC reinforces system for providing instructions

A new concept in public communications introduced as part of the Emergency Teamwork '88 exercise was that of a Joint Public Information Center (JPIC). The JPIC was located at the Vern Riffe (Pike County) Joint Vocational School and served as the central point of news media contact for information about the simulated emergency at the Portsmouth plant.

Incident and emergency response public information was coordinated, through a series of news media briefings, by a team of public information officers from the plant, Pike County, and the State of Ohio.

Eleven news people, from seven area organizations, were present on the day of the exercise in addition to seven individuals who played the role of "mock media" for the purposes of the exercise.

This spring, Martin Marietta Energy Systems and Pike County Schools had renewed an agreement originally made in 1980 to provide for this use of the vocational school building. The new agreement also provided for installation of telephone lines, mounting of back-up radio equipment, space for a storage cabinet for JPIC equipment, and for use of the building in case of emergencies unrelated to the Portsmouth plant during which Pike County may call upon the plant for mutual aid assistance.

The plant also has secured a formal understanding agreement with Waverly City Schools to provide for use of Waverly High School as a JPIC should it be required.

In the JPIC, space is provided for the public information officers (PIOs) and technical advisors to gather information needed for press briefings. An auditorium or cafeteria is used for news media briefings. Space also is required for citizen hot line and media inquiry telephone bank operators, and for administrative support functions.

In the event of a telephone equipment

failure, back-up radio communications can link the JPIC with Pike County, State of Ohio and plant emergency centers.

Activation and overall operation of the JPIC are the responsibility of the Portsmouth plant's Public Relations Department.

The Joint Public Information Center (JPIC) may prove useful in any disaster or emergency situation which involves response for a variety of Federal, State, and local agencies or departments, private corporations, or other groups. Generally, situations involving such a multi-level response are complex disasters or emergencies. However, they may range from isolated local events (an explosion which involves local fire, police, water, highway, and emergency services officials, and perhaps State or Federal authorities) to

catastrophic events (an earthquake or tornado which involves all of the above agencies and affects an entire series of cities, counties of a state or regions of the nation).

The JPIC is a place at which all information concerning the disaster or emergency is compiled and forwarded to news agencies and the public by the responding agencies or groups. Successful operation of the JPIC results in a variety of benefits to everyone concerned.

★ The media can locate reporters in one location and be assured that the JPIC is a centralized source of information. Likewise, the media is afforded the opportunity to quickly confirm important emergency instructions or information for the affected public or squelch rumors that would lead to unnecessary public fear or panic about the situation.

★ The response agencies can avoid contradictions which otherwise might occur if all parties were not coordinating the release of emergency information. The agencies, therefore, can achieve a mutually beneficial goal of providing clear, undisputed emergency instructions and information and, in the process, aid the overall response and recovery effort.

★ The affected public can be provided reliable, timely information on the disaster or emergency and, as a result, have greater confidence and trust of both the response agencies' abilities and the media's reporting of the event.

Experience proves invaluable

(Continued from Page 1)
Background Information

One of the major activities at the Portsmouth plant leading up to the exercise was relocation of the plant's Emergency Control Center (ECC) to the X-1020 building. The remodeled facility serves as a central location for the team of management and support personnel which manage plant emergency response, either during an exercise or in the unlikely event of a major release of hazardous materials which could affect the surrounding community.

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion plant has maintained emergency plans for plant personnel and the public since 1952. The plant has always had arrangements for communicating quickly with community officials and mutual aid agreements to share services and equipment.

Drills and exercises have always been a part of testing procedures and equipment. To date, the full-scale Emergency Teamwork '88 field exercise has been the largest

test of coordinated response among the various responsible agencies.

Pre-Training

An advisory committee composed of representatives of participating organizations planned the exercise over a period of almost eight months.

To prepare for the full-scale exercise of July 23, more than 80 participants conducted a table-top training exercise May 19 at the Vern Riffe Pike County Joint Vocational School to increase their awareness of response actions taken by each agency during an emergency situation.

An emergency management exercise to test the communications between the Pike County EOC and the plant was conducted on June 15, and "all facilities in place" exercises were conducted on June 23 and July 14.

Pre-exercise news media activity included 29 separate office visitations by the plant's Public Relations Department for discussion of the upcoming exercise.

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