

Annex 9 - Public Information

- A. An incident at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) will be an unfamiliar emergency to the local population. This, added to the fears people already have about nuclear radiation, could lead to rumors or panic among the general public. In order to minimize this, the public will be made aware of the incident. Therefore, it is important that the news media be provided current, accurate information.
- B. A Joint Public Information Center (JPIC), established by the BVPS (See Annex 18 of this Plan), will allow all public information officers to coordinate news releases and participate in joint news briefings. It will also provide a location for all news media to get accurate, timely and consistent information. If Hancock County is not represented at the JPIC, A State of West Virginia PIO will serve as JPIC point of contact for the county, as well as the state.
- C. The release of public information should be coordinated with all authorities involved, including:
- State PIO at the State EOC
 - Governors Communications Team
 - State representative at the JPIC
 - County PIO
 - Facility PIO
 - Ohio and Pennsylvania PIO's
 - Representatives from other jurisdictions
 - Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- D. While most news releases will be written at the time of the incident, news releases that can be used as a guide depending on the situation are contained in the WV REP Public Information Standard Operating Procedures (WV REP PIO SOP).
- E. Hancock County will disseminate information to the county population according to Annex K - Public Information of the Hancock County, Radiological Emergency Plan.
- F. All releases at the state level will follow the procedures outlined in Annex M - Public Information of the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan. Information concerning incidents at the nuclear facility will be sent to the SEOC by the state representative at the JPIC. News releases will be written at the SEOC and sent to the state representative at the JPIC. The designated Federal Public Affairs/Information Officer furnishes information on the federal activity when federal agency resources are utilized.
- G. The West Virginia representative at the JPIC will only release information that has been approved at the SEOC.

- H. It is important that each representative only issue information concerning their areas of responsibility, such as West Virginia only talking about West Virginia or Hancock County issues.
- I. Rumor control will be needed at the state and county levels to help keep the public informed and minimize rumors. At the state level, the SEOC will serve as the rumor control for West Virginia. The SEOC has sufficient staffing and telephones to handle this function. At the county level, rumor control will be handled according to the county plan.
- J. Emergency Information is contained in the Brooke-Hancock County phone book for people living within the 10-Mile EPZ of the power plant. Emergency Information Packets are available from the Hancock County Office of Emergency Management for those residents who do not have a telephone or live outside the 10-mile EPZ. Copies of this section of the phone book are also posted in the DHSEM webpage.
- K. Hancock County distributes information packets throughout the 10-mile EPZ to locations where transient people might be (motels, parks, etc.). This information is updated and redistributed on an as-needed basis. However, all organizations are contacted and their supply of fliers checked/restocked annually or as needed.
- L. BVPS distributes information packets annually to the media. Providing the media with a list of contact persons and background information on the plant and the emergency procedures.