Emergency Support Function #12 - Energy

Primary Agency
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Facilities Management

Secondary/Support Agencies
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
State Corporation Commission
City of Radford
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Appalachian Electric Power Company
Atmos Energy

Introduction

Purpose:
Describe procedures to restore the public utility systems critical to saving lives, protecting health, safety, and property, and to enable ESFs to respond.

Scope:
ESF #12 will collect, evaluate, and share information on energy system damage. It will also estimate the impact of energy system outages within the affected area. According to the National Response Plan the term “energy” includes producing, refining, transporting, generating, transmitting, conserving, building, distributing, and maintaining energy systems. Additionally ESF #12 will provide information concerning the energy restoration process such as projected schedules, percent completion of restoration, and other information as appropriate.

Policies:
- Will work to provide fuel, power, and other essential resources to the university;
- Will work with utility providers to set priorities for allocating commodities;
- Personnel will stay up to date with procedures through education and training;
- Restoration of normal operations at critical facilities will be a priority; and

Concept Of Operations

General:
The supply of electric power to customers may be cut off due to either generation capacity shortages and/or transmission/distribution limitations. Generation capacity shortfalls are more likely to result from extreme hot weather conditions or disruptions to
generation facilities. Other energy shortages, such as interruptions in the supply of natural gas or other petroleum products for transportation and industrial uses, may result from extreme weather, strikes, international embargoes, disruption of pipeline systems, or terrorism.

The suddenness and devastation of a catastrophic disaster or other significant event can sever key energy lifelines, constraining supply in impacted areas, or in areas with supply links to impacted areas, and can also affect transportation, communications, and other lifelines needed for public health and safety. There may be widespread and prolonged electric power failures. Without electric power, communications will be interrupted, traffic signals will not operate, and surface movement will become grid locked. Such outages may impact public health and safety services, and the movement of petroleum products for transportation and emergency power generation. Thus, a major, prolonged energy systems failure could be very costly and disruptive.

**Organization:**

In the wake of such a major disaster, Local Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) will be assisted by state-level assets to help in the emergency efforts to provide fuel and power and other essential resources as needed. The priorities for allocation of these assets will be to:

- Provide for the health and safety of individuals and families affected by the event;
- Provide sufficient fuel supplies to local agencies, emergency response organizations, and service stations in critical areas;
- Help energy suppliers obtain information, equipment, specialized labor, fuel, and transportation to repair or restore energy systems;
- Recommend / comply with local and state actions to conserve fuel, if needed;
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies in providing energy emergency information, education, and conservation guidance to the public;
- Coordinate information with local, state, and federal officials and energy suppliers about available energy supply recovery assistance;
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will send requests to the State EOC for fuel and power assistance.

Additional supporting information, such as key contacts, recommended conservation measures, and pre-scripted press releases, can be found in the "Electric Power and Natural Gas Energy Emergency Handbook," maintained by the State Corporation Commission (SCC), and in the "Petroleum and Solid Fuels Energy Emergency Handbook," maintained by the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME).

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is the designated commodity manager for natural gas and electric power. The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is the commodity manager for petroleum products and for solid fuels.

Following a catastrophic disaster, the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), with staff support from SCC and DMME, will coordinate the provision of emergency power and fuel to affected jurisdictions to support immediate response operations. They
will work closely with federal energy officials (ESF 12), other Commonwealth support agencies, and energy suppliers and distributors. The university will identify the providers for each of their energy resources.

**Actions**

- Identify, quantify, and prioritize the minimum essential supply of fuel and resources required to ensure continued operation of university facilities;
- Monitor the status of all essential resources to anticipate shortages;
- Maintain liaison with fuel distributors and local utility representatives;
- Implement local conservation measures;
- Keep the university community informed;
- Implement procedures for determining need and for the distribution of aid;
- Allocate available resources to assure maintenance of essential services;
- Consider declaring a local emergency; and
- Document expenses.

**Responsibilities**

- Review plans and procedures. Review procedures for providing lodging and care for displaced persons (see ESF #6);
- In the event of a fuel shortage, establish procedures for local fuel suppliers/distributors to serve customers referred to them by local government;
- Keep the university informed and aware of the extent of the shortage, the need to conserve the resource in short supply, and the location and availability of emergency assistance;
- Provide emergency assistance to individuals as required;
- Enforce state and local government conservation programs; and
- Identifies resources needed to restore energy systems.