

**For Immediate Release:****Hostile Action Based Workshop hosted at LDEQ**

Baton Rouge, LA — Nearly 40 attendees gathered at the Galvez Building’s Oliver Pollock Conference Room on July 30 to attend the 2024 Hostile Action Based (HAB) Workshop, hosted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

A Hostile Action is defined as an act toward a Nuclear Power Plant or its personnel that includes the use of violent force to destroy equipment, take hostages, and/or intimidate the licensee to achieve an end. At DEQ we are not naïve, that bad things could happen to target our energy infrastructure and we diligently work to stay a step ahead of the bad actors every day. This workshop provided readiness training to help responders prepare for such events at one of the three nuclear power stations that concern LDEQ.

LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto welcomed the HAB workshop attendees. Giacometto said, “When it comes to protecting our nuclear facilities we and our partners are always on high alert because nothing is more important to DEQ than the safety of Louisianans.”

Attendees came from federal agencies such as FEMA and the FBI, as well as state agencies like LDEQ, Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Planning (GOHSEP), and the Mississippi Department of Emergency Management (MEMA). Responders from utilities, plants, and many Louisiana Parish agencies were also in attendance, particularly from areas adjacent to the nuclear plants: River Bend Station near St. Francisville, Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station in St. Charles Parish, and Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Claiborne County, Mississippi, just across the Mississippi River from Tensas Parish.

Under FEMA’s 2019 Program Manual, HAB exercises must be conducted on an eight-year cycle as a requirement for the power plants to maintain their licenses. “One of the big things in a HAB exercise,” FEMA official Darren Bates told the group, “is it’s a post-9/11 world.” Bates, the lead for HAB response for FEMA, emphasized that after Sept. 11, 2001, the NRC required nuclear power plant licensees to enhance emergency preparedness in several areas, including alternate emergency response facilities, emergency response organization staffing, security-based emergency classification levels and emergency action levels, and onsite personnel protective actions.



LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto welcomes attendees to the 2024 Hostile Action Based Workshop at LDEQ.

