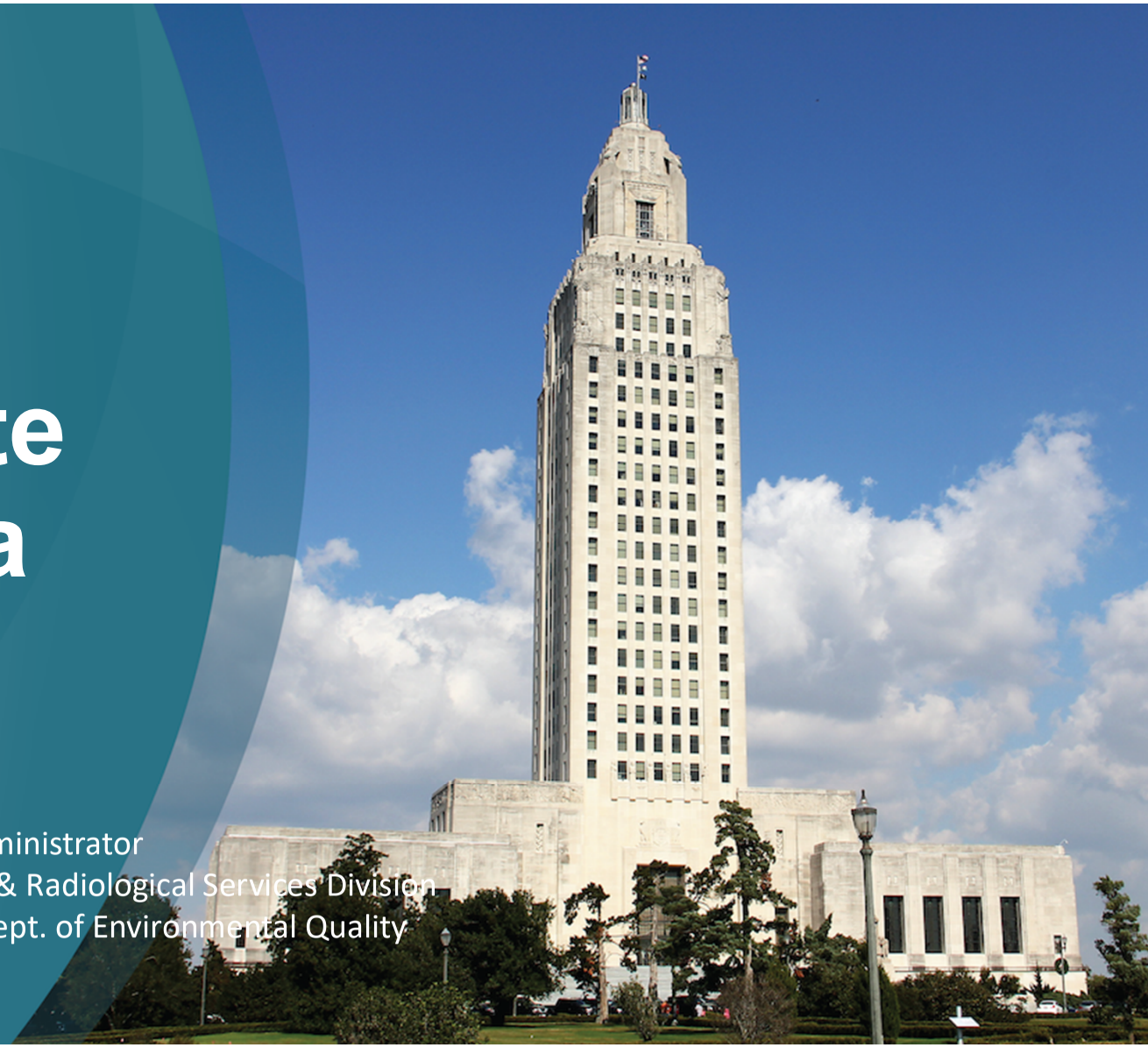
Change is Inevitable: How the State of Louisiana is Adapting



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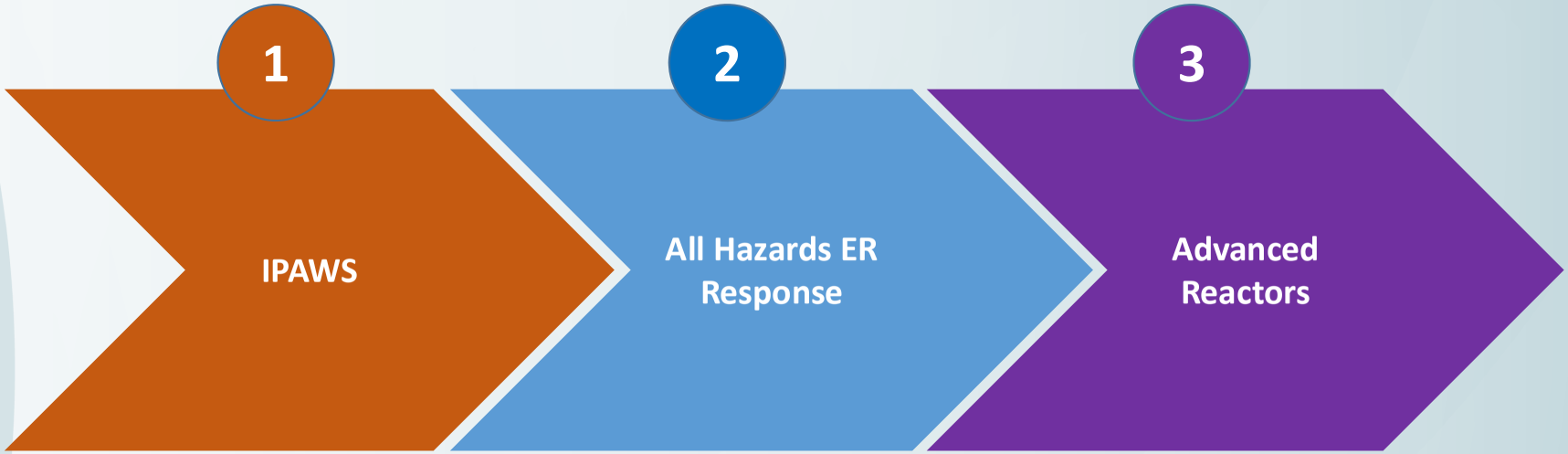
The State of Louisiana Perspective on the Following Topics



1 IPAWS

2 All Hazards ER

3 Advanced Reactors

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

- System maintained by FEMA.
  - The FEMA has issued policy guidance indicating that IPAWS may be used by a state, tribal, and local government as a primary or backup means of public alerting and notification (FEMA memorandum, IPAWS Implementation Guidance, dated September 13, 2017).
- Alerts public of real time emergencies.
- Messaging gives clear instructions on where additional information can be found.
- Allows geo-fencing a specific area for disseminating messages.
- Most of the LA local government already uses wireless emergency alerts to disseminate messages for other types of hazards.

Current Emergency Alerting & Notification

- Currently, Louisiana Nuclear Power Plants utilize sirens as the primary alert for radiological emergencies and backup route alerting for rural areas.
- Sirens are outdated and have varying uses throughout the country.
- Transient populations may not know the meaning of the sirens; therefore, confusion may ensue.

Louisiana Nuclear Power Plants

- River Bend Station- located in St. Francisville, LA
  - IPAWS approval pending
- Waterford 3 Station- located in Killona, LA
- Grand Gulf Nuclear Station- located in Port Gibson, MS (Tensas Parish is part of 10-mile EPZ)

River Bend Station (RBS) IPAWS

- The State of Louisiana is in process of obtaining approval to have RBS Design Report to include IPAWS as the primary alert and notification system.
- The State of Louisiana has been working on the Design Report revisions and FEMA/NRC approval process for over a year.
- Once it is approved, RBS and offsite response organizations will implement updated plans and procedures.
- River Bend Station has five risk parishes within the 10-mile EPZ.
- MOU's, plans, and procedures had to be created/updated to include IPAWS.

Testing and Troubleshooting (IPAWS)

- A live IPAWS test was completed in November 2024.
- The live test revealed that the vendor used by the Parishes to disseminate IPAWS messages has a character limit in certain fields, resulting in the message not being sent.
- Once the character limit was resolved, the Parish was able to disseminate the message to the public and FEMA was able to observe the test.

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All Hazards Emergency Response

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All Hazards Emergency Response

- 2020-2024
  - 6 Hurricanes made landfall in Louisiana
  - 3 Hurricanes causing indirect impacts
  - Numerous wildfires destroying thousands of acres
  - 5 Significant flooding events
  - 11,689 Release Notifications 4,742 Emergency Responses
- 2025
  - January 1 Terror Attack
  - January 21 Record Cold/Snow Event

All Hazards Emergency Response

- Emergency Notifications
  - Begin at the Local Level
  - Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) can assist if locals are unable.
  - Systems Used - Redundancy
    - IPAWS
    - LA Wallet
    - Get a Game Plan
    - Phone Notifications – Everbridge, Rave, etc.
    - Social Media

Disaster Initiated Review (DIR)

- In 2021, Hurricane Ida caused Waterford 3 and the risk parishes, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles, to have certain capabilities impeded, such as the operational hotline being rendered inoperable.
- A virtual Disaster Initiated Review (DIR) was completed due to limitations on gas and hotel availability in the area.
- The DIR questionnaire was completed by the risk parishes with the assistance from the utility, who were able to deploy to the area.

Disaster Initiated Review (DIR)

- Evacuation routes were assessed through the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.
- A revised, temporary Evacuation Time Estimate was completed due to the evacuations in the area.
- Reception centers were used as shelters during the storm; therefore, emergency alert messages were temporarily altered to ensure the public was aware of where to go in the case of an emergency.
- The DIR process was stalled due to FEMA comparing information received from the State of Louisiana and social media sites.
- Following the aftermath, an After Action Report was created, detailing the lessons learned from the virtual DIR

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Advanced Reactors

- Louisiana in interested in how small, modular advanced reactors can be incorporated into industry.
- In 2024, the Louisiana Public Service Commission hosted a two-day conference to discuss the economic impacts, industry growth, and safer practices using these newer technologies.
- The industry that was present was interested in the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of the reactors.

Advanced Reactors

- SMRs offer many advantages, such as relatively small physical footprints, reduced capital investment, ability to be sited in locations not possible for larger nuclear plants and provisions for incremental power additions. The NRC reviews applications submitted by prospective licensees, and issues standard design certifications, early site permits, limited work authorizations, construction permits, operating licenses, and combined licenses.
- LDEQ is proactively monitoring and following developments and changes in the nuclear field on a statewide as well as national basis. This includes changes in the Regulatory fields as well as developments in technology.
- LDEQ is also staying up to date on new Nuclear projects and proposed projects for the State of Louisiana.
- LDEQ is actively engaged with Governor Landry's Nuclear Working group
- Louisiana will make determinations on how these technologies can be incorporated around the state.

Final Thoughts

- The state of Louisiana looks forward to the approval and implementation of IPAWS into emergency response plans
- Many lessons were learned from the virtual DIR and using compensatory measures when existing capabilities are impeded.
- The state of Louisiana is interested in advancing reactor technologies and how they can aid economic growth and safer industry practices.


Any
QUESTIONS?