

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1700

To require the President to issue guidance on Federal response to a large-scale nuclear disaster.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2013

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the President to issue guidance on Federal response to a large-scale nuclear disaster.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Disaster Pre-
5 paredness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO A NUCLEAR DIS-** 7 **ASTER.**

8 (a) **ISSUANCE.**—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the President, in consulta-
10 tion with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of De-

1 fense, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
2 Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Sec-
3 retary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the
4 Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall issue guid-
5 ance on Federal response to nuclear disasters described
6 in subsection (b).

7 (b) NUCLEAR DISASTERS DESCRIBED.—The guid-
8 ance issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall be with re-
9 spect to any nuclear disaster that—

10 (1) may be caused by a natural catastrophe, an
11 accident, or a terrorist or other attack;

12 (2) occurs initially at a nuclear power plant;
13 and

14 (3) disperses radiation off the reactor site and
15 into the surrounding area.

16 (c) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued pursuant to
17 subsection (a) shall—

18 (1) designate the single Federal agency that is
19 responsible for coordinating the Federal Govern-
20 ment’s efforts in response to a nuclear disaster (in
21 this Act referred to as the “Coordinating Agency”),
22 including making a formal declaration that a nuclear
23 disaster exists;

1 (2) identify the circumstances under which a
2 formal declaration described in paragraph (1) will
3 occur;

4 (3) designate the single Federal agency that, in
5 response to a nuclear disaster, is responsible for rec-
6 ommending to the Coordinating Agency—

7 (A) the evacuation of the area within a 10-
8 mile radius from the nuclear power plant; or

9 (B) the evacuation of the area within a
10 larger radius from the nuclear power plant, but
11 not more than a radius of 50 miles;

12 (4) identify the circumstances under which a
13 recommendation described in paragraph (3) will be
14 made;

15 (5) designate the single Federal agency that is
16 responsible for developing plans for an evacuation
17 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
18 (3), educating the public regarding such an evacu-
19 ation, and conducting such an evacuation when di-
20 rected to do so by the Coordinating Agency;

21 (6) designate the single Federal agency that is
22 responsible for recommending to the Coordinating
23 Agency that evacuees may return following a nuclear
24 disaster;

1 (7) identify the circumstances under which a
2 recommendation described in paragraph (6) will be
3 made;

4 (8) identify what cleanup standards will apply
5 for a nuclear disaster;

6 (9) designate the single Federal agency that is
7 responsible for conducting cleanup of a nuclear dis-
8 aster when directed to do so by the Coordinating
9 Agency; and

10 (10) identify any other roles and responsibilities
11 of any Federal agency involved in the response effort
12 to a nuclear disaster.

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