

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Palo Verde's New Joint Information Center and Emergency Operations Facility in Buckeye

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Representatives from the state of Arizona, Maricopa County and the town of Buckeye joined Palo Verde personnel at Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Palo Verde Joint Information Center (JIC). The facility, scheduled to open March 2011, is located approximately ½-mile south of Interstate 10 (I-10) on Airport Road at the Verrado Way exit.

View a [slideshow](#) of the day's event.

The facility also will be home to the site's Emergency Operations Facility (EOF), serving as the response and training drill site for both EOF and JIC Emergency Preparedness responders. Additionally, the facility's large auditorium and meeting areas will be available for use by Palo Verde personnel for retreats, meetings and training sessions.

"True to the community spirit of APS, the building also will serve as a resource that can be used by community groups for meetings and events," said Randy Edington, chief nuclear officer and executive vice president. "With our current license renewal and new water contract, Palo Verde plans to be here **SAFELY** and efficiently *generating* electricity for the *long term*."

The 30,000-square-foot facility will join a strong Palo Verde presence that contributes to the town's economics and growth with 20 percent of Palo Verde's 2,500-member work force living in Buckeye. One of the main features in the building will be a large auditorium with a stage, speaker podium and seating for 250 attendees.

"We welcome this wonderful new facility that will serve both Palo Verde and the town of Buckeye well," said Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. "Palo Verde and Buckeye both are committed to the communities we serve and we look forward to this continued partnership."



Lou Trammell, director, Arizona Division of Emergency Management, shared insights from his nearly 20 years of experience in emergency preparedness and thanked Palo Verde and APS for their help in conducting training drills for many years that have helped his office and the state of Arizona be better prepared to deal with emergencies that required a response.

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Questions? [Monica Ray](#), director, Emergency Preparedness, 82-6778.

Photo: Using ceremonial shovels to break ground for the new Palo Verde Joint Information Center are (left to right) Aubrey Goodwin, director, Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency; Monica Ray, director, Emergency Preparedness, Palo Verde; Randy Edington, chief nuclear officer, Palo Verde; Jackie Meck, mayor, town of Buckeye; Pete Weaver, director, Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management; and Lou Trammell, director, Arizona Division of Emergency Management