Development of an Educational Course Module: Environmental Assessment for Siting of Nuclear Facilities

Executive Summary

The objective of this proposed project is to develop a multimedia educational module aimed at understanding environmental evaluations and assessments necessary for the siting of nuclear facilities: *Module 5C Development of an Educational Course Module: Environmental Assessment for Siting of Nuclear Facilities.* The module is the third course in a sequence (Risk Evaluations and Environmental Assessment as part of Nuclear Environmental Protection) currently being developed by the Rutgers team under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) funding. This proposal would cover a third year of funding, and together with the other courses, will provide the basic environmental, ecological, and health physics background to conduction environmental evaluations and assessments at nuclear facilities, focusing on the environmental impact assessments necessary for the siting of new facilities. The main benefit is that it provides in-depth, hands-on information for scientists, managers, and regulators to understand the complex environment surrounding nuclear facilities. No new reactors have been licensed for over 30 years, and in the interim, the United States has lost many of the professionals versed in an understanding of the environmental regulations and requirements for siting new facilities. This course directly addresses this need. Also, the NRC is experiencing a renewed interest in nuclear power and is currently reviewing several applications for new reactors. Given the new generic design approvals, much of the review will necessarily focus on the site-specific aspects of the application. Thus, this course is aimed at training personnel both within the nuclear industry, as well as regulators, state agency personnel, public-policy makers, and others interested in renewed nuclear energy and associated environmental protection.

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