

Industry Initiative on Groundwater Protection

NRC Public Meeting

May 9, 2006



Overview

- Industry Initiative
- Action Plans
- Industry Lessons-Learned Workshop
- Reporting Protocol
- Voluntary Data Collection
- NEI Industry Task Force
- Path Forward

What is an Industry Initiative?

- Establishes an industry-wide commitment to a course of action
- Requires 80% majority approval by industry chief nuclear officers
- Binding on all companies operating or decommissioning a nuclear power plant

Industry Initiative on Groundwater Protection

- Passed unanimously (100% vote)
- Commits to site-specific action plans and an industry-wide reporting protocol
- Implementation required by July 31, 2006

Industry Initiative Objectives

- Improve management of inadvertent radiological releases to the groundwater
- Prevent migration of licensed radioactive materials offsite
- Quantify impacts on decommissioning
- Enhance trust and confidence of local communities, States, NRC, etc.

Action Plans

- Action plans implemented industry-wide by July 31
- Action plan elements
 - Assess sources and pathways
 - Review site operating history
 - Assess site geo-hydrology
 - Assess current site monitoring program
- Follow-up actions will be site-specific

Lessons-Learned Workshop

- Benchmark and share industry operating experience and lessons-learned
- Topical sessions
 - Leak identification and prevention
 - Sampling and analysis
 - Geo-hydrology
 - Reporting/action criteria
 - Remediation
- Summarize results and develop best practices

Reporting Protocol

- Report elevated onsite groundwater levels
 - 30 day NRC report
- Notify state and local officials
 - Significant leaks/spills
 - Elevated groundwater levels
- Expand annual Radiological Environmental Monitoring Report
 - All groundwater sample results
 - Significant leaks/spills

Voluntary Data Collection

- In addition to the industry initiative
- Voluntary submittal on the docket
- Scope:
 - Groundwater monitoring program
 - Leak detection and prevention program
 - Groundwater radioactivity levels

NEI Industry Task Force

- **NEI is forming an industry task force (TF)**
- **The TF will initially focus on detection, response, and remediation practices related to ground water protection.**
- Some examples of areas that might be standardized are:
 - The criteria for a 10 CFR 50.75 (g) “significant” leak/spill and the information to be retained in the utility file.
 - Ground water monitoring levels of detection (LLD’s) for tritium and other isotopes.
- Information obtained through the lessons-learned workshop will be provided to the TF as a starting point.

NEI Industry Task Force

- The TF will identify and prioritize the candidate practices for standardization.
- The recently approved INPO “Protocol for Standardizing Industry RP Practices” will be used by the TF.
- The TF will receive input from industry workshops & meetings:
 - Lessons-Learned Workshop – June 8th, 2006
 - RETS/REMP conference – June 26th - 28th, 2006
 - EPRI Ground Water Monitoring Conf/Workshop – Sept 12-13, 2006

Schedule

- Industry initiative approved – May 5
- NRC public meeting – May 9
- Voluntary data collection – May-June
- Industry lessons-learned workshop – June 8
- NEI industry task force – June 15
- RETS-REMP conference – June 26-28
- Feedback to NRC – mid-July
- Implement industry initiative – July 31
- EPRI groundwater monitoring workshop – Sept 12-13