

June 13, 2002

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MINNESOTA, PENNSYLVANIA, WISCONSIN

**48 HOURS (2 BUSINESS DAYS) PUBLIC ACCESS DELAY FOR  
AGREEMENT STATE EVENT NOTIFICATIONS (STP-02-047)**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has implemented a revised process to delay posting of Agreement State "Event Notifications (ENs)" to the NRC public web site for 48 hours (2 business days) to permit States to complete the initial phase of their investigation. The revised policy is based on recommendations from the Working Group on Event Reporting (WG) comprised of staff from NRC and the Agreement States. The 48 hours time limit is consistent with the majority of the Agreement State responses to this issue in the WG questionnaire. Agreement State ENs will be delayed public access for 48 hours (2 business days), as follows:

**48 Hours Delay**

1. Agreement States should continue to notify NRC of all significant events within 24 hours.
2. NRC will delay posting of Agreement State ENs to the NRC public web site for 48 hours (2 business days), after notification to NRC, to permit States to complete the initial phase of their investigation.
3. NRC Regional staff will continue to develop a "Preliminary Notification (PN)" for significant events that will be shared internally, but will place a 48 hours (2 business days) public access delay in ADAMS, and at the public web site. The top of the cover page should identify the 48 hours (2 business days) delay period: *"This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until mm/dd/yy."*
4. *International Nuclear Events Scale (INES)*: Information on significant Agreement State events found to meet the INES classification criteria will be provided to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for entry into the INES "Nuclear Events Web-based System (NEWS)" database 48 hours (2 business days) after notification to NRC. A draft copy of the event information provided to IAEA, via the INES Event Rating Form and attachments (if applicable), will be provided to the applicable Agreement State for review prior to submission to IAEA for entry into INES.

**Prompt Notification to Other Federal Agencies and Border Countries**

1. *Other Federal Agencies*: NRC plans to continue prompt FAX notification of significant Agreement State ENs to other Federal agencies, i.e., Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Departments of Energy, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Transportation (via the National Response Center).

2. *U.S. Border Countries:* NRC and Canada and Mexico have begun sharing information on lost sources. NRC plans to provide prompt notification of ENs involving lost sources with Canada and Mexico.

ENs provided to other Federal agencies and border countries should contain a statement identifying the 48 hours (2 business days) public access delay period on the cover page as follows:

*"This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until mm/dd/yy.*

This letter supersedes the current EN information contained in Section 5., "NRC Publication and Distribution of Event Notifications," of the Office of State and Tribal Programs Procedure SA-300, *Reporting Material Events*, dated May 23, 2001, and will be incorporated into SA-300 during the next revision.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me or the individual named below.

POINT OF CONTACT: Patricia Larkins  
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-2309

INTERNET: PML@nrc.gov  
FAX: (301) 415-3502

**/RA/**

Paul H. Lohaus, Director  
Office of State and Tribal Programs

STP-02-047

June 13, 2002

Distribution:

DIR RF (2-84)

DCD (SP03)

SDroggitis

PDR (YES✓)

BSmith, EDO

Agreement State File

**DOCUMENT NAME: C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML021650172.wpd**

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	STP		STP:DD		IRO		NMSS		CIO		EDO		STP:D	
NAME	PMLarkins:gd:kk		JMPiccone (By KNSchneider)		RWessman		DACool		FGoldberg (Via Telephone)		MLandau		PHLohaus	
DATE	5/6/02		5/6/02		5/7/02		5/8/02		6/12/02		5/20/02		6/13/02	

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**