

BEST PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN RESTRICTED USE DECOMMISSIONING

Background

10 CFR20.1403(d) Licensee shall document in the LTP or DP how the advice of individuals and institutions...has been sought and incorporated.

- Stakeholder concerns with implementation.
- NRC staff concerns over its own ability to evaluate.
- Use of neutral convener and facilitator seen as solution.
- US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) seen as appropriate resource.

Discussion

“Best Practices for Effective Public Involvement in Restricted-Use Decommissioning of NRC-Licensed Facilities” published September 2002.

Workshop held in NRC Headquarters on September 5, 2002.

BEST PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Public involvement should never be a process to persuade the public about the soundness of a decision; rather, it is an opportunity for shared learning and for evaluating options.

Be honest and forthcoming about what is on the table for discussion, taking into account the public's likely desire to be involved and influence the plan. Be honest about which aspects of the plan are set and which are subject to public influence.

Include a role for the public in implementing decisions.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF TRAINING

Experienced public involvement practitioner can assist in all aspects and lend credibility to the program.

Neutral facilitator should be used to guide any collaborative process that may be part of the public involvement program.

Staff should have some training, particularly in answering questions from the public and the media.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT

Characterize public's concerns and desired level of involvement.

Create or strengthen personal relationships with the public.

Assign key contact from staff.

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

Determine level of involvement, from information exchange to collaborative decision making.

Communicate level of involvement to the public.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Written plan serves as guide.

Program evaluation should be built up front. Evaluation results should be used to continually assess and improve the public involvement program.

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