

**Nader Mamish Opening Remarks -- Publically observed meeting with NEI to discuss PAR studies (6/30/04)**

*Good afternoon.* My name is Nader Mamish, and I am the Director of NRC's newly-created Emergency Preparedness Directorate. I would like to welcome you to today's meeting.

The subject of today's meeting is the conduct of studies to re-examine the basis for protective action recommendations (PARs) during severe accidents at nuclear power plants. The Commission directed the staff to "continue to evaluate the NRC protective action recommendation guidance to assure that it continues to reflect our current state of knowledge with regard to evacuation and sheltering." There has been significant advances in our understanding of nuclear plant accident progression since the guidance in NUREG-0654, Supp. 3 was promulgated and it is prudent to embark on a study to ensure these advances inform NRC guidance. Toward that end, the staff has established a contract with Sandia National Laboratory to conduct a study of the technical aspects of public protective actions.

I was pleased to learn that NEI is planning to conduct a study in the same area utilizing the expertise of EPRI. It is hoped that there is room for collaboration on technical issues and that is the purpose of this meeting. While the staff has been charged by the Commission to examine the issue, it should not preclude the staff from considering scientific input along the way, as well as input from other stakeholders. The scope of work given to Sandia includes the integration of stakeholder input at several steps. It is expected that the work conducted by NEI can be a source of such input, as will input from offsite response organizations. I believe that State of New Jersey is on the conference line and has offered to provide their protective action procedures as an example to be included in the study. This input is one of the first steps in the study and will serve to provide a foundation of how existing PARs are implemented and an effectiveness test of any proposed changes.

It is expected that the parallel projects as well as robust stakeholder input will inform the process to ensure a successful outcome. However, it should be realized that this is the study phase. There has been no decision to actually change NRC guidance for PARs. First we will examine the technical issues and then, if warranted, a policy proposal will be developed for Commission consideration. Only after a decision by the Commission would changes be

recommended to stakeholders. This process will likely take a couple of years to come to fruition and only if the technical analyses bears fruit.

*Thank you again* for participating in today in the meeting and we look forward to an open and productive discussion.