

# 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006
  - RETS/REMP conference – June 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 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