

From: Andy Imboden
To: Karen Henderson; Leigh Trocine
Date: 10/22/2007 8:43:03 PM
Subject: Input to Consejo de seguridad Nuclear Magazine Article

Karen, Leigh-
Input from FSME:

1) The NRC works hard with our international counterparts to enhance nuclear safety and security worldwide by licensing the import and export of radioactive materials, and participating in international nuclear activities, including multilateral and bilateral safety and security activities. The safe use of nuclear materials is in everyone's interest, and the NRC's goal is to ensure the safety and security of the American public and contribute to an overall increase in nuclear safety internationally. The NRC follows the lead of the International Atomic Energy Agency in endorsing a graded approach to nuclear security, meaning that nuclear and radioactive materials for civilian purposes are controlled in a manner commensurate with their risk.

2) The biggest challenge in nuclear safety for the NRC is to implement a stable and predictable security environment, which requires maintenance of reasonable security measures while providing for continued beneficial uses of radioactive materials. While the NRC must remain ever vigilant in ensuring the common defense and security in an elevated threat environment, it is important to recognize that the NRC's oversight should not place unnecessary or capricious regulatory burden on our licensees. The NRC will use a risk-informed, graded approach to implement appropriate regulatory controls for the possession, handling, import, export, and transshipment of radioactive materials. Also important is for the NRC to continue our support and active involvement in international security activities, including support of International Atomic Energy Agency non-proliferation initiatives and bilateral physical security inspections of special nuclear materials that originate in the United States. An important strategy that the Commission intends to use to overcome this challenge is to communicate security information with appropriate external stakeholders and international partners.

3) The strategic plan is written by the Commission and describes to the public how the NRC will accomplish its mission. The strategic plan also communicates the agency vision, goals, outcomes, and strategies that the Commission will pursue over the next five years. The Commission is currently updating the strategic plan for the years 2007 - 2012. A draft version is available on the NRC web site (www.nrc.gov.) The most important part of the strategic plan is called the "strategic objective" and currently reads: "Enable the use and management of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels for beneficial civilian purposes in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment, promotes the security of our nation, and provides for excellence in regulatory actions that are open, effective, efficient, realistic, and timely." From this strategic objective, the Commission lists the goals, outcomes, and strategies that will be implemented to uphold the strategic objective.

4) The license is issued for 40 years. After 40 years, it is possible for the license to be renewed for up to 20 additional years.

Because these questions mainly regard reactor and security issues, we defer to NRR and NSIR in case of a conflict.

Cheers,

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CC: Kathryn Hollencamp

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