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# **Westinghouse Electric Company Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility**

## **Emergency Preparedness**

December 18, 2007

Cary Alstadt, Plant Manager

# Emergency Preparedness Agenda

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- Program Performance
  - February 2007 Event
  - July 2007 Exercise Results
- Program Improvements

# Emergency Preparedness

## Westinghouse Perspective on Program Performance

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- Westinghouse has 24/7 Site Brigade Capability staffed with dedicated volunteer employees
- Our brigade volunteers are well trained in applicable NFPA Standard Requirements along with enhanced training at the Texas A&M fire school, which is a recognized national leader in this training
- Westinghouse utilizes All Clear Fire Training & Consulting and Emergency Response Technologies for consulting and hands on training
- Westinghouse has made a considerable investment in upgrading equipment (i.e., Hazmat truck, pumper truck, bunker gear, Level A suits, SCBAs)

# Emergency Preparedness

## Westinghouse Perspective on Program Performance

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- Westinghouse has also initiated a First Responder program that has been utilized by the local community on at least two occasions
- Previously, Westinghouse administered the emergency program as a part time function for a professional with additional duties
- Westinghouse recognizes that outside agency interaction was good under these conditions, but also informal in many cases

# Emergency Preparedness

February 2007 Event

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- Employee was burned with hydrofluoric acid (HF) and sent to the hospital for treatment
- The root cause of the event was determined to be that the uranium hexafluoride ( $UF_6$ ) cylinder valve failed to seat
- The root cause also identified corrective actions in the personal protective equipment (PPE) specified for the activity and in the Material Safety Data Sheet/Hazard Communication training performed at the plant

# Emergency Preparedness

## February 2007 Corrective Actions

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- Immediate actions were taken to specify and implement the appropriate PPE for the job
- Emergency procedures were updated, and training was provided for operations and emergency response personnel on the proper protocol for treating HF burns and for transporting employees to the hospital
- Westinghouse worked with the  $UF_6$  cylinder supplier to complete a failure mode analysis for the valve
- Westinghouse has instituted an online MSDS program to provide current information

# Emergency Preparedness

## July 2007 Exercise Results

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- The exercise scenario was a simulated fire involving radioactive material requiring off-site responder support
- Overall exercise performance was an improvement over past two years
- Weakness were noted in unified joint command, communication (radio) problems, establishment of hot, warm and cold zones, and press notification
- Outside agencies responded and exercise objectives were met

# Emergency Preparedness

## July 2007 Exercise Results (continued)

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- Prompt corrective action was taken to implement the lessons learned from the emergency exercise
  - Radio repairs completed with communication checks conducted monthly
  - EOC training will focus on providing timely press releases
  - Incident Commander training on After Action Report including establishing correct hot, warm and cold zones

# Emergency Preparedness

## Program Improvements

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- Westinghouse appointed a full time EH&S Staff manager responsible for overall activities of the Emergency Response Organization
- An assistant Brigade Training Chief was appointed and assigned responsibility for Emergency Response training activities, including scheduling, tracking and record keeping
- An assistant Brigade Administration and Plans Chief was appointed and assigned responsibility for brigade equipment, procedures and administrative duties

# Emergency Preparedness

## Program Improvements (continued)

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### Brigade Training Chief:

- All brigade training records have been consolidated into one tracking system
- Training record documentation issues have been corrected
- Brigade training program was reviewed against applicable NFPA Standards and determined to contain the appropriate program elements
- Developing on-site facility for interior fire training

# Emergency Preparedness Program Improvements (continued)

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## Brigade Administration and Planning Chief:

- Preventive maintenance program is in place for brigade equipment
- Brigade procedure enhancements are in process
- Responsibilities for this position include establishment of Brigade Organization, Roles and Responsibilities, General and Standing Orders, and expectations for Brigade Member performance

# Emergency Preparedness

## Program Improvements (continued)

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- Initiated a Green Belt project to evaluate, in detail, Brigade response with improved Brigade procedures, worksheets, checklists, and training drills
- A project is also being developed that will evaluate and optimize the organization and performance of the Emergency Operations Center at the Columbia Plant
- These significant commitments by Westinghouse management demonstrate the focus on continued improvement in Emergency Preparedness