U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

Expanding Participation in Regulatory Processes: Experience from Public Meetings

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January 11, 2010

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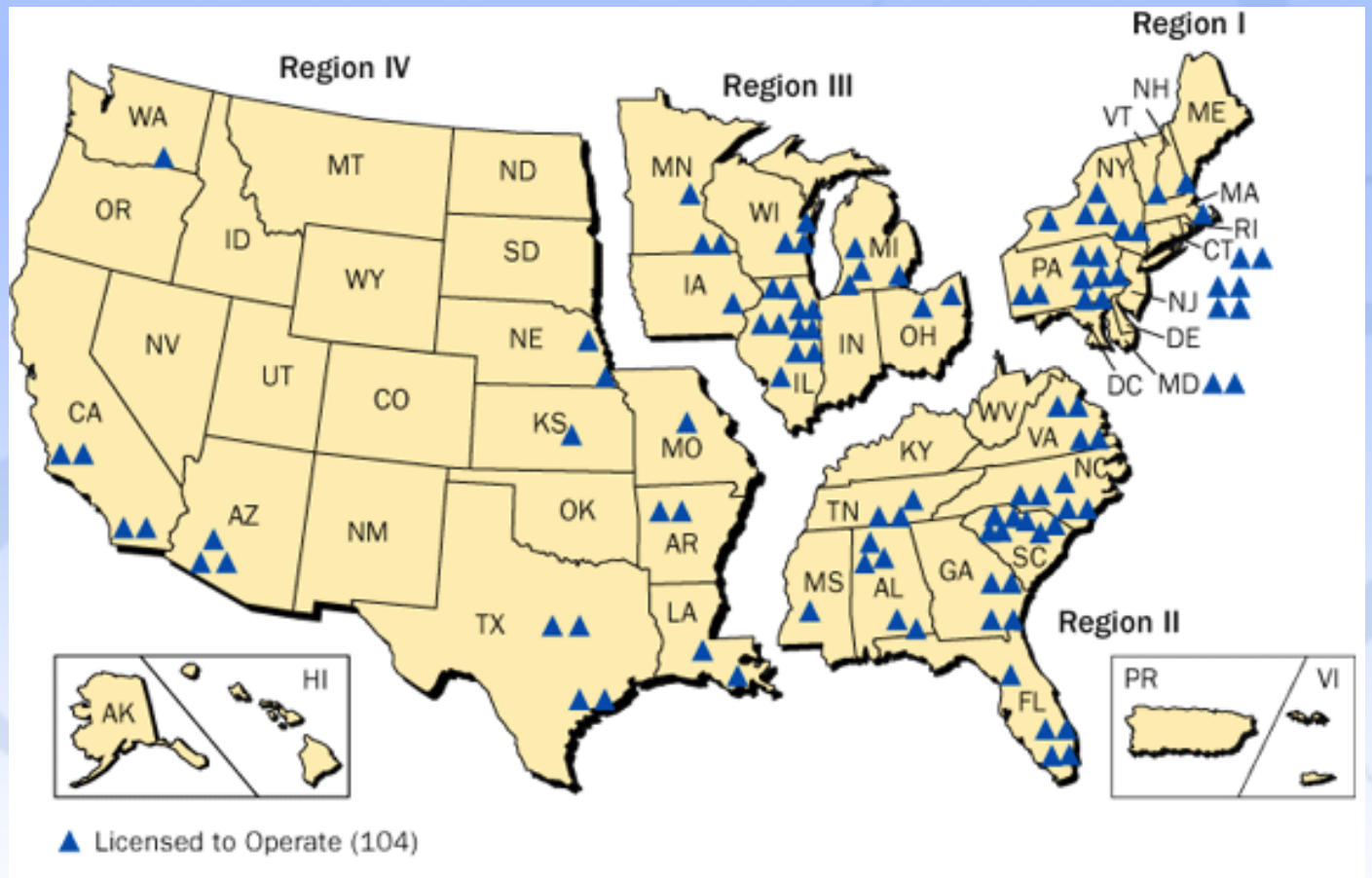
NRC Mission

- To regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

Challenge

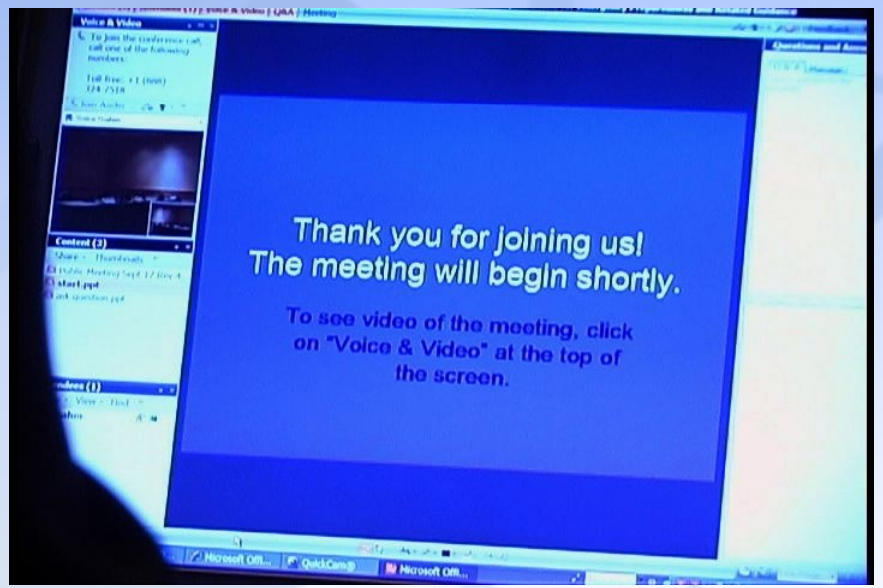
- Maximize involvement of diverse group of stakeholders in largest change to emergency preparedness regulations in 30 years
  - High visibility
  - High interest
  - High emotion

Stakeholders



Solution

- Web conferencing using commercial off-the-shelf technology
  - Low cost
  - Public access
  - Ease of use
- No need to travel
- "Green"



Positive Reviews

"Technology is GREAT! … We could see and hear everything that was said and it was easy for us to participate.
… I would recommend that all public meetings in the future be conducted in the same manner."

– Carol O'Claire, Radiological Branch Chief, State of Ohio

Lessons Learned

- Security / Internal Issues
- Public is willing to try new things!
  - (Credit for listening & being responsive)
- Time investment large but worthwhile
- Outreach, outreach, outreach!