

Bamford, Peter

From: Chernoff, Harold (NRR)
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 2:55 PM
To: Nelson, Robert (NRR)
Cc: Bamford, Peter (NRR)
Subject: RE: FW: TMI INES Rating

I also agree with Peter and Scott. A formal report will extend the news cycle unnecessarily for a low level contamination. I suggest you endorse and provide this input to Fred Brown and Mike Cheok for DORL, if you agree.

hkc

From: Bamford, Peter
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 2:01 PM
To: Chernoff, Harold
Cc: Nelson, Robert
Subject: FYI: FW: TMI INES Rating

FYI - I agree with OPA on this.

Peter Bamford
NRR/DORL/LPL 1-2
Limerick & TMI-1 Project Manager
301-415-2833

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 1:53 PM
To: Sigmon, Rebecca; Couret, Ivonne; Screnci, Diane
Cc: Brown, Frederick; Cheok, Michael; Thorp, John; Thomas, Eric; Bamford, Peter; Jones, Cynthia; Hayden, Elizabeth; Sheehan, Neil
Subject: RE: TMI INES Rating

OPA advises providing the EN as an informal reponse to requests for more information. A formal INES report would likely be misinterpreted as adding to the safety significance of what occurred.

From: Sigmon, Rebecca
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 12:01 PM
To: Couret, Ivonne; Burnell, Scott; Screnci, Diane
Cc: Brown, Frederick; Cheok, Michael; Thorp, John; Thomas, Eric; Bamford, Peter; Jones, Cynthia
Subject: TMI INES Rating

In accordance with MD 5.12 and as noted in IN 2009-27 and RIS 2002-01, the NRC will submit events to the IAEA International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) publicly available NEWS website if they are determined to have a rating of Level 2 or higher, or if the rating is specifically requested by the IAEA or another INES member state. The high activity over the weekend reported by TMI-1 in EN 45514 generated sufficient media interest that the IAEA and at least three other countries have requested more information. This event as currently reported is a **Level 0**, that is, "Below Scale."

The IAEA would like to see the INES scale used not just for significant events, but also to demonstrate the low safety significance of other highly publicized events, a category which would include what happened 11/21 at

B/156

TMI. Given the usual nature of the postings to the website though, it would not necessarily be seen in that light, and posting it to the IAEA website could instead serve to amplify coverage of an event that has already been covered in detail in the media. We would only want to post this event if, in the opinion of OPA, Region I, and NRR management, the posting would serve to emphasize the low safety significance of an event which has received substantial coverage. I have attached a draft copy of the Event Rating Form (ERF) that would be submitted, which primarily contains information from the licensee's Event Notification, for your review, and would appreciate your opinions on the matter.

Thanks,

Rebecca Sigmon
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