

Clifford, James

NKR

From: Screnci, Diane
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 4:33 PM
To: Clifford, James
Subject: RE: TMI INES Rating

OPA has weighed in on this. I didn't feel I knew enough about the process to comment.

DIANE SCRENCI
SR. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
USNRC, RI
610/337-5330

R1

From: Clifford, James
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 4:29 PM
To: Screnci, Diane; McNamara, Nancy; Tift, Doug
Cc: Lew, David; Roberts, Darrell; Wilson, Peter; Brown, Frederick
Subject: FW: TMI INES Rating
Importance: High

Would be interested in your thoughts on the question below.... I think the fundamental issue is whether or not we "send" the TMI event to IAEA for posting on their web site as a way of putting the event in context, especially given the current media coverage?

Thanks.

Jim

From: Brown, Frederick
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 12:24 PM
To: Roberts, Darrell; Lew, David
Cc: Clifford, James; Wilson, Peter; Boger, Bruce; Cheok, Michael; Leach, Melvyn; McDermott, Brian; Morris, Scott; Giitter, Joseph; Howe, Allen; Nelson, Robert; Thomas, Eric; Sigmon, Rebecca
Subject: FW: TMI INES Rating
Importance: High

Dave, Darrell:

Let us know whether you think that the INES rating would help or hurt our communication efforts.

thanks,
Fred

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

NKR

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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."

NRR
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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 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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