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Protecting People and the Environment

Bilateral Exchange: Buried and Underground Piping

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Definitions

- Buried Piping
 - In contact with soil

- Underground piping
 - Below grade
 - In contact with air
 - Limited access



Issue

- Recent leaks from buried or underground pipe at several plants
 - No immediate safety issues
 - Some tritium release
 - None approached offsite radiation dose limits
- Despite lack of safety or dose significance, there is significant public concern



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Regulatory Standard

- Regulatory issue if:
 - Loss of piping system's intended function
 - Exceed onsite or offsite radiation dose



Discussion Topics

- Plant design related to buried pipe
- Operating Experience related to buried pipe
- Regulatory approach to tritium leaks
- Public relations regarding tritium leaks
- Corrosion prevention for buried pipe
 - Cathodic protection
- Inspection of buried pipe