EXTRA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

PUBLIC MEETING

BRIEFING BY ISE ON TMI LESSONS LEARNED

Place - Washington, D. C.

Date - Wednesday, 12 December 1979

Pages 1 - 47

1658 053

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

BRIEFING BY I&E ON TMI LESSONS LEARNED

Commissioners' Conference Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, 12 December 1979

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., pursuant to notice, Chairman Ahearne presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

CHAIRMAN JOHN F. AHEARNE

COMMISSIONER VICTOR GILINSKY

COMMISSIONER RICHARD T. KENNEDY

COMMISSIONER JOSEPH M. HENDRIE

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PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Good morning.

Lee, I gather we have a meeting on the Inspection and Enforcement Lessons Learned.

MR. GOSSICK: Right. This has been on the schedule a number of times, but finally we are here to go ahead and give you a briefing on it. Mr. Stello will introduce the briefing.

Vic.

MR. STELLO: Thank you, Lee.

We have issued a report taking a look at what I&E has learned from Three Mile Island. The report is dated October 10, 1979. It was one of the things that as I took over the reins of Office Director of I&E I felt there was a real need to do.

Events since the issuance of this report, however, have overtaken what I felt was the need to do a detailed briefing of the report since we are developing Task Action Plans for the NRC to go forward with all the lessons that have been learned from Three Mile Island.

The first discussion on that will be this afternoon, of the Task Action Plans themselves. $1658\ 056$

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: We at the Commission felt it very important to hear from you before we heard about the Task Action Plans. We, as you know, have heard a lot from Harold

Denton on that side of the Lessons Learned. We believed it essential to get your perspective on I&E's Lessons Learned hefore we began to sit down and discuss the Action Plans.

MR. STELLO: I understand. What we have done for the purpose of this briefing is to take the on-going activity that has been in place, looking at what the recommendations are, and digesting and understanding and trying to decide which of these we ought to go forward with.

What we will do is be focusing more on the next phase of activity that took place, taking some of those issues that are the more important issues and bringing those to your attention and briefly describe those with the understanding that the in-depth evaluation of the particular issues will be a part of the Task Action Plans rather than trying to do that this morning because I don't think it ought to be done separatel now since another activity is going on.

I have asked Harry, with that flavor and philosophy in mind of trying to go through and describe more of where we are today, rather than where we were on October 10th when the original report came out. However, we are prepared to answer any questions you may have as a result of what is in the report. But I wanted to assure you that all of what is in the report has been considered in going to the next step, that is, the development of the Task Action Plans themselves.

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Harry.

(Slide.)

MR. THORNBURG: This summarizes the background for the report. The Group, the Special Review Group, was constituted by Mr. Stello by his memorandum of July '79. The scope and objectives were to improve the I&E contribution to public safety and on the basis of Lessons Learned from TMI.

If I could have the second slide, please?
(Slide.)

The composition of the Special Review Croup was principally field people. Of the full-time composition we had six field inspectors, four field section chiefs, three Head-quarters managers, a mix of experience, assignments, and perspective.

We had materials inspectors and reactor inspectors, materials inspectors, and a security and safeguards man, one who had been at the site and helped make some of the administrative arrangements.

We had an operations man who had been an inspector at TMI earlier on, some people that didn't know anything about TMI. All regions were represented, and so on.

If I could have the next slide, please?
(Slide.)

The level of effort. We worked pretty hard for 12 weeks. The Regional people were away from home a lot, and

I believe they made a tremendous sacrifice. Many of them had been away from home at TMI-2. And it was a privilege to work with them. They were dedicated to the job, and very interested and in my view, very productive.

The perspective of the report is shown on Slide 4 -- (Slide.)

-- and it's in between the I&E investigation report being available and the Kemeny Report being available. The group had the benefit of discussion with our investigating staff.

We went to the site, interviewed a lot of staff members, and we met with various groups.

And then another thing that has occurred since the report I think is very important, and Vic touched on that, and that is that we've gotten out a perspective of the Task Action Plan. Almost all of our recommendations have been integrated into the Task Action Plan.

Slide Number 5, please.

(Slide.)

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Harry, do you intend to point out -- You say "almost all." Do you intend to point out if there are some significant ones that you believe have not and should be? Or Vic, would you do that?

MR. THORNBURG: I can touch on that.

MR. STELLO: Go ahead.

MR. THORNBURG: Let me get to that at the end, if

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I may.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: All right.

MR. THORNBURG: There were a number of general and specific recommendations, about 200. Some of them we count twice and some had several parts, but I'd say 200. They ranged in importance from very, very significant in our view to things that should be done but may be not as important as some of the others.

We didn't have time to sit down and put everything in an order, and I fully believe that has been done in the Task Action Plan now.

The SRG made the finding as indicated. The SRG has performed this review and has made its relatively large number of recommendations with candor. The SRG believes with equal candor that the I&E program is in general soundly based and has been, to a large extent, adequately implemented. However, it recognizes that deficiencies exist that need correction and it is with this in mind that the many specific and general recommendations are made.

If I may have Slide Number 6, please?
(Slide.)

Now these are what we consider to be some of the more important recommendations that were made that relate to NRC policy in the safety area. Many recommendations have been instilled into the Task Action Plan by other I&E representatives

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in that Working Group, working with representatives from other offices. It has provided a great deal of insight I think now into the importance of a number of our recommendations.

In some cases the approach recommended by the combined staffs that developed the Task Action Plan may differ in approach but I think the objective will be reached if the Task Action Plan is carried out.

The first item, the definition of safety-related. There are at least three terms that are used when we talk about safety-related systems, the component systems and structures that play a safety role in the plant. We either call them safety related, safety grade or important to safety. We believe if there is a difference in meaning in these terms it ought to be sorted out or else one term used, or specificity be brought into this area so we know what we're talking about.

If there is a difference in definition then that differentiation ought to be stated.

We think that it might be possible to make a graded approach in the designation of safety-related components and structures. Maybe some are more important than others. Consideration ought to be given to that.

Consideration ought to be given to the interrelationship between 10 CFR Appendix A and Appendix B, and we believe that there is a connection to this matter to the TMI 1658 061

24 Federal Reporters, Inc.

accident.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: You also recommend extending the definition essentially.

MR. THORNBURG: Yes.

We believe attention should be given to this area. It is addressed in the Task Action Plan. I shouldn't steal Dr. Mattson's thunder by going too deeply into that. I think at this point a slightly different approach is taken but I think you'll end up with a better definition of what is safety related, and that we can cope with the problem better.

In some cases, as I understand from the Inspection Report, the operators at TMI didn't rely on some instrumentation readings because they said it wasn't from safety-related instruments and so therefore, they gave less credence to it.

And then there's the matter of the PORV, the poweroperated relief valve.

We believe the concept of shared systems -- that we ought to re-evaluate the approach; particularly if we're going to share systems, maybe there ought to be more design verification of lack of interaction. And here again this is a matter that the Task Action Plan addresses. At least it did the last time I saw it.

There is heavy emphasis on the upgrading of radiation protection at reactor sites. A number of recommendations were made, and this is also a matter taken up in the Task

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Action Plan.

We believe that internal review should be required by licensees. There should be combined IE/NRR reviews of licensee radiation protection systems and capability; this sort of thing.

And by the way, I have lumped together under radiation protection health physics, radiation protection, waste handling, radioactive waste handling and this sort of thing.

That radiation control should be emphasized.

MR. STELLO: Excuse me for interrupting. This is a particular area where we feel there is a need for significantly more. We are attempting to have an evaluation done using contractor help to go out and take a comprehensive look at the entire health physics program at the facility, a concept similar to the kind of look that NUS gave at Three Mile Island that pointed up a number of problems that our inspection program didn't find before the accident. It is that kind of lesson that I think we have learned here.

At least we need to go out and take a good look all at one time, a snapshot if you will, and we're in the process of gearing up to do that, hopefully starting at about the beginning of the year. It is a rather ambitious effort.

I think we'll be able to compensate by saving on our own manpower and substituting with the team effort similar to what NUS did. We're moving in that particular area right now.

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MR. THORNBURG: We believe that we ought to look into upgrading procedures, sampling radiation measurements and this sort of thing, that we ought to pay more attention to radiation protection in our internal evaluation of licensee performance.

Next, we believe that the Commission should consider recognizing other codes and standards in 50.55-A. At present the ASME code and changes are recognized in 50.55-A and we think consideration ought to be given to including IEEE codes and standards and American Concrete Institute codes and standards. We believe that would give us little firmer requirements.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: What is NRR's reaction?

MR. THORNBURG: This has been included -- The consideration of this has been included in the Task Action Plan.

I don't think we are very far apart on it.

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of the fundamental concensus codes to 50.55-A or take the boiler code out, it's not clear to me which way you ought to go. You have to recognize that we have those codes embedded in the regulations. Every six months you have to update the regulations because the boiler code, for instance, publishes winter and summer addenda that in effect change the code and the other codes also change from time to time. It's not clear to me that --

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Are you saying they ought to be consistent?

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: I think there are other codes that now begin to rank with the boiler code in authority and usefulness to us and could very well be treated the same.

MR. STELLO: This specifically will be included in the Task Action Plan. We think we ought to look not only at this regulation but all the regulations to assure that that balance is in fact in there.

MR. THORNBURG: What Dr. Hendrie says is certainly true about the possible need for updating and this sort of thing but, as regulators, we're usually looking for a better handle in I&E.

We believe it is important to understand human factors, we believe that lesson shines out of TMI. We ought to look at the reduction of human errors, look at how we can

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make humans more successful, have more human successes than failures. We think that we ought to understand the man-machine interface. Human factors did play a role, a significant role, at TMI, and we think the agency should do everything it can to understand how these things affect safety.

Component qualification. We believe there should be more direct NRC involvement. Right now my division is preparing an option paper with respect to how we -- recommending how we think we should become involved in this sort of thing. The options are whether, you know, the NRC ought to do it itself or have a consultant do it and that sort of thing.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Are you going to indicate at some point what is more important and what is less important? Because I get the impression you're saving we ought to do everything better.

What you've got there is -- and in your report, is in effect the entire list of all the factors that influence safety.

MR. THORNBURG: We think these emerged as the most important of all those that we recommended, particularly based on the work that has gone into the Task Action Plan.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: You mean the items on this slide?

MR. THORNBURG: Yes, and the ones to follow. There are several others to follow. 1658 066

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to have.

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COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: But of these, which are the two, three, four or five most important?

MR. THORNBURG: I could give you my opinion.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: That's what I would like

MR. THORNBURG: Would you prefer to give it?

MR. STELLO: Why don't you give your opinion?

MR. THORNBURG: Understanding human factors is probably one of the most important. The definition of safety-related, I think that has got to be cleared up so we know exactly where the quality assurance program fits and where our regulatory envelope fits, and everybody knows. Upgrading radiation protection. Upgrade training and qualifications, minimum staffing. The Committee thought that we must assure that we've got enough people in the control room at all times who are properly qualified.

Experience evaluation. The plant was talking to us and we didn't hear it.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: I gather, Harry, that there are

-- in your view, what is most important, you don't have

any -- the most important things that I&E in turn has to do;

B, here are the most important things that NRC, external to I&E

has to do. You've got a mixture there.

MR. THORNBURG: Well the next slide shows what we consider to be most important with respect to the I&E program. $1658\ \ 067$

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But these are the things we thought that we could do internally to upgrade our program and probably were more in our favor than anyone else's. The others involved interaction with other offices and, I think, involved further policy decisions.

CHAIRMAN AMEARNE: Vic, do you want to comment?

MR. STELLO: To me that is the most pressing

questions that's in front of us. The first issue was clearly

to have the recommendations from the group come forward. I

assigned another group who was integrating here, plus a

number of other recommendations that were made to me by other

groups, looking into the Task Action Plan. Now you have a

rather substantial document which has a list of a lot of

resources that are needed to do all of these things.

What now must take place and has not yet taken place is to look at what those recommendations are in the Task Action Plan, to take those and look at what we are doing now and make the balance of what we think are the most important things and perhaps decide to replace some of the things that we are doing with what is more important and to organize and prioritize that activity.

We're not there yet, so I can't answer your question as to how we're going to rank, of those that are in the Task Action Plan -- and clearly some of them are more important than others -- and stack that up against what we are already doing. And some of what we already may be doing

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may not be as important as what we recommend we do in the future.

And until that exercise is finished and we've had a chance to make those judgments, I don't think you can really answer the question.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Your answer sounds terribly mechanical to me, I have to tell you. Here we are, I don't know how many months after this accident, and we've got a list of 200 items, and we can't pick out among these which are the several most important? I can't believe that you do not have in your mind a sense of which are in fact the most important.

MR. STELLO: The first screening of which ones are most important are the ones that Harry is giving you. If you were asking him to order these, I'm saying we can't do that.

Of the 200 that were here, he is giving you the list of those that are gleaned from here as being the most important. Now to get a further ordering of that screening process has not been done. He is giving you --

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I don't get the feeling that these are several of the 200, these are categories which include -- each one of these would include, it seems to me, several of the items that are covered in your report.

MR. STELLO: That's a fact.

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COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: So in effect you're just laying out the whole list again.

MR. STELLO: No.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: And how are we to allocate our effort and decide what to do if we can't decide what's important?

MR. STELLO: Well I didn't think we ought to do that as part of this exercise, I think that ought to be done as part of the Task Action Plan.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: But we're listening to you for advice.

MR. STELLO: Well I just told you that I'm not prepared until I look at the balancing of what we are already doing versus what has been recommended to me.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: I think what Vic Stello is saying that, to the extent that I&E has screened through and integrated -- correct me if I'm wrong -- that you have reached a conclusion that this is the best at this time that you can identify as most important and then, in addition, you have folded these into the Task Action Plan.

MR. STELLO: The most important ones.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Right. It is still certainly true that at some time in the not too distant future you're going to have to identify, as far as which elements of the Task Action Plan are most important.

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MR. STELLO: Correct, and then further which of these are so important that we don't have the resources to do them, because they are additional, that we would want to change what we are already doing and readjust our program to do some of these things. That to me is the answer to the question, which of these are so important that we will use the existing resources we have to do them rather than something else.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: You say you're not there yet?

MR. STELLO: Not to answer the question completely.

I can give you fragmented answers.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Do you want to go ahead?

MR. THORNBURG: We believe that the authority

of -- the authority of the NRC should be extended to include nuclear steam suppliers and architect-engineers.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Harry, can we stop a minute?

As to that one and the previous one concerning the verification of testing, I have a question. In making a recommendation of that kind, there must be some general appreciation of the resource question. Can you give me some feel for what we're talking about? I'm not talking about precise numbers, but orders.

MR. THORNBURG: Well, component qualification: we propose that we do some -- contract someone to do independent

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verification for us and that we get a little bit of a dedicated staff, and then probably we'd be proposing ultimately four people and maybe somewhere around \$10 million in the area of the verification testing.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Should we multiply that by 200 to get the total for the list?

MR. THORNBURG: No. Some of those are intensive of Staff time to prepare a change to the regulations or standards or whatever. Some will increase the amount of inspection work we have to do. In some cases we might have to put on more people. The resource consideration varies with each one of them, and that's something that the Task Action planners have done, attempted to do. It's a difficult job.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Could you comment a little more fully now on the AE and NMSS?

MR. THORNBURG: What we're proposing here is to somehow extend the direct authority of NRC to NSSS's and architect-engineers.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That would be some sort of Inspection and Enforcement program?

MR. THORNBURG: We do now inspect them.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Do you inspect A&E's, or the work of an A&E?

MR. THORNBURG: The work.

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COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: It's a Design and Analysis quality assurance audit.

MR. THORNBURG: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. What is it that you propose to add to it, to what is already being done?

MR. THORNBURG: There are two parts. One part here, the thing we're addressing here is to change the regulations and for us to either license them or make sure that we have rules that apply to them, so we have more to inspect against. And that's the length and breadth of that proposal.

But concurrent with that, we are also proposing to upgrade our review at the design stage -- we do more of a quality assurance-oriented inspection, more of a technically-oriented inspection--bring some licensing expertise in with us, increase our staff a bit more with engineering specialists and change the focus of our inspection program. And that would probably amount to five more people years.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: You're talking about licensing the architect-engineers?

MR. THORNBURG: Yes. Either license them or -well, we didn't include the vendors in this. You might
license them or you might make the rules apply to them a
little more closely, one or the other.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: So you would also then have a

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large amount of, or some amount of NRR resources?

MR. THORNBURG: Yes. We would like, particularly in the beginning, we would -- we have done some cooperative efforts in the inspections of architect-engineers. We did it a year or so ago in connection with ECCS calculational problems. And it was a successful venture and they gave us good technical insight into the problem. And we think it is something that we ought to continue to do.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: You would license them on what basis, on the basis of a particular design or just give them a license to perform services as architect-engineers on the basis of their qualifications?

MR. THORNBURG: Without being lawyers, I'm not sure that we parsed it down that fine. What we wanted was regulations that apply to them one way or the other.

MR. SHAPAR: The situation essentially now is that they have controls over the vendors partially because of the legal handle they do have on the applicant. In other words, if we want something done we can get it indirectly by placing the requirement on the Applicant or the Licensee.

I think the suggestion here is that this be formalized in some manner so that there is a direct licensing authority of certain of the architect-engineers.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: What I'm asking is is that in connection with a particular plant or is it a license,

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as one might grant a radiographer to perform radiography services?

We don't license the utility per se, we license them to operate a particular plant.

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: And we don't license radiographers to do radiography. We license radiographers to possess by-product materials, and I have some question whether the statute in fact extends to direct licensing.

MR. SHAPAR: It does not.

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: -- of professional services.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: So that parallel isn't right, I don't know that we license anybody to perform services.

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: Reactor operators.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Yes.

MR. SHAPAR: I think he's assuming legislative changes.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I'm just asking what you're proposing.

MR. THORNBURG: We haven't proposed down to the detail of how you go about doing it, but we think that -- we felt that the agency should have more authority over these people, more direct authority.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I understand what you're

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saying but it doesn't get far enough to help me. It says that -- the report says, aside from the broad recommendations, that there are a number of things that we ought to do. And I

And I was a little unclear about how much farther it proposed we go than we are now going and what the implications of whatever that increase in effort would really be. And I still don't have that feel.

MR. THORNBURG: Well, we are not in a position to -- we weren't in a position to study the impact of this recommendation.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: What you're saying is somebody is doing that now?

MR. THORNBURG: It'll be done, it'll have to be done in the process of the Task Action Plan.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Did you endorse that particular recommendation?

MR. STELLO: To the extent that it's in the Task Action Plan, for which I think there needs to be significant policy guidance, both on behalf of the Commission and the individual offices, which is not yet done, and that's a big task. To look at the depth of how far to go in this particular area is extremely difficult, maybe we need to do a study before we can --

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Is it correct at the moment

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that it's a suggestion, that it not --

MR. STELLO: Yes, the concern being our approach to architect-engineers, nuclear steam suppliers and the rest. Once the paper review is done at the construction permit, there's an awful lot of activity that goes on in terms of turning in general requirements as stated in the application into actual design hardware, detailed designs, and following that, the final construction of the facility. The analysis of what goes on in the vendor's shop we get through this indirect path, through mostly the auspices of QA rather than having a clear understanding of how far we ought to go in that area.

This recommendation and the one that will follow speaks to that concern. How much more you need to do, you're going to have to look at the equation of what is the resource impact on behalf of the agency and how do you strike a reasonable cost-benefit to do much more. Any step in this process can have very, very large resource implications . if you get at all into detail.

But perhaps by requiring vendors to certify by regulation would enhance safety quite a bit and be minimal to our resources.

Now I am throwing out wild ideas as to what part of this study might be. But without the study, I don't think there can be any complete answer as to how far to go.

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MR. THORNBURG: We kicked this around, you know, what form would the extension of authority take. And we saw the need for it, but we didn't have the time or really the people with position in the organization, I think, to carry it to where we would select one alternative or the other.

MR. SHAPAR: It seems to me two questions have been presented here: Number one, does more need to be done insofar as controls over architect-engineers are concerned, if so, what? The second question is, can it be done with our existing licensing authority or can it not be? I think there are two questions.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: AE and NSSS and you're saying you have to have the first before you can get to the second and the first hasn't yet been worked out.

MR. BICKWIT: By the way, we think they're all rather the second.

The question is whether you want to make use of the answer you get to the second. We think the answer to the second is yes.

MR. THORNBURG: Proceeding on to experience evaluation, TMI demonstrated the need for more work in this area. We believe, and a lot of other people -- it has been expressed by other groups -- we believe that it is important to understand the feedback from the machine and it's important that we proceed on the basis of what our experience tells us.

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There's a significant body of it now generated and we should listen to it.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Do you feel the operational data analysis meets that recommendation?

MR. THORNBURG: Yes. The concept depends on, you know, we believe that the LER data system should be upgraded. Based on what we see now, we have no real negative comment. I&E is gearing up to do some things within itself.

MR. STELLO: Clearly there was a need recognized, not only by I&E and others. So within each office there had to be people already devoted to this task, that decision has been made and those resources have been committed to perform this task within the offices. A larger commitment of resources to perform the task within the agency, that clearly has already been done.

So there has been judgments made as to which of these that are really more important by the fact that the resources are already committed to them. So my judgment certainly doesn't differ with that, I think putting in the resources in the office and have the people on board starting to do that just now.

But that is again a fragmented answer. There is no looking at the entire process and distilling from it the single most important thing. We are going to do with the resources we have.

process?

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COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: When does that happen?

MR. STELLO: It's happening -- the overall

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: The distilling.

MR. STELLO: That is just -- that has been just since the Task Action Plan came out. I think it needs guidance both from within the Staff itself and from the Commission itself.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: This is the plan we're going to hear about later today?

MR. STELLO: Yes. And I think we ought to be reserving discussion on that. I feel the need to do an awful lot more to be able to answer the question. I feel I'm not ready to come down here and feel that I'm satisfied, that I could look at now the results of the Task Action Plan and balance my own resources and say Here's what I recommend to the Commission: (a), we ought to do with the resources you have given me to work the problem and then say in addition to those resources, I recommend that the Commission ask for additional resources for so much to do these following things.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: What I don't understand is how can you help put together a Task Action Plan or comment on it if you have'nt in your mind decided which of these items are the most important. There is inevitably

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going to be some set of priorities that have to be established and we simply can't work on the basis of saying that everything ought to be done.

MR. STELLO: Absolutely not, I agree.

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CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: I think what you're saying is that you are still in the process of trying to distill it.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Here we have the Task

Action Plan coming to us later today and I assume you had

some role in putting it together or commenting on it.

MR. STELLO: I think the cover letter says that I'm not yet satisfied with it.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: You're saying that even on the Task Action Plan there is still more distillation to be required on that?

MR. STELLO: Considerably more. I think I also need to see what Rogovin will come onu with, how will he impact what I do.

I certainly can't do everything that everyone would like to do and there will be the need to make judgments.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: The question is can you do everything that you think ought to be done.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Right.

MR. STELLO: I think with the resources we have now we will have to prioritize the list of things that look like they are good things to do, things we would like to do, and then things that are really important and we will have to have that ordering, both in terms of what we're doing today as well as what has been suggested.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: But haven't we done that?

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MR. STELLO: Not yet.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I must say I'm surprised.

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CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: You say you are going to go through this distillation process. Do you have some estimate as to when that might be completed, just on the I&E portion? I recognize there's an interative interaction with the Action Plan, but to the extent that it can be decoupled, when

MR. STELLO: It will take at least another two or three weeks.

would you expect for the I&E portion to be completed?

MR. GOSSICK: A word on this before we leave.

The Action Plan we're going to talk about this afternoon is going to have some of the problems in here as to short-term, long-term priorities because there certainly is a very significant resource impact that has got to be addressed and the culling of this, and dependent on the guidance we get from the Commission, is a process that still has to be continued.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Okay.

MR. THORNBURG: The next item, office interaction, resolution of safety, is another obvious thing that comes out of TMI. It encompasses the entire staff and in terms of we must make sure that the inputs from all perspectives are integrated together, you know, that we combine the viewpoint of people that have the field experience and know what is

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going on in the field with those who have the perspective of the technical people, the engineers, the nuclear engineers and so on and so forth.

We have to have the perspective of the licensors and everything has got to be melded together and the right decision come to. And if there are people that have other views they have got to be heard and brought forward and considered. Now we've got to have a system that assures that all this is done.

We made extensive recommendations for the upgrading of training and qualifications of licensed and unlicensed personnel and NRC personnel, and this is certainly a part of the Task Action Plan, and the upgrading of training and qualifications is something Licensing has started to begin with, too, so it is a moving target.

We concentrated not so much on the licensing of people that are presently licensed but we said some of the other people -- some of the people that aren't now licensed, some of the operation people or some of the technicians at the site should have stated qualifications and we should assure that they meet them, maybe the auxiliary operators, health physicists, maintenance people, electrical foremen; this sort of thing.

Also we made strong recommendations about the statement of qualifications of our people. We ought to firmly

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know what various types of inspectors should be qualified to do, and assure that we meet those standards and that we provide a training program that leads to it.

As I said, there are extensive recommendations in the report.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Would you say the general sense was that-- Let me separate the two.

The general sense was that the operator or the licensee personnel are not sufficiently well qualified, or is it that they aren't sufficiently well examined?

MR. THORNBURG: Well, as I said, more of our recommendations reached some of the people who are not now licensed. We felt there ought to be some attention given to that area.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Of the ones that are not now licensed, is the general flavor that they ought to be licensed because we ought to reach to them, or is it that we expect they aren't adequately qualified?

MR. THORNBURG: Well, we are not assured-- If you had a definite state of level of qualification and you could inspect against it, then you would have more assurance that these people did meet the qualifications.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: I'm trying to see if we have a flavor of they are saying this is an uncertain area and we'd be a lot more comfortable if we had license requirements on

them, or are they saying that we ought to put license requirements on them if that's the only way we're going to upgrade them?

MR. THORNBURG: I think probably the former. We feel uncomfortable in that area and think that we ought to have more definition. I don't think we feel that there's a big gulf there.

CHAIRMAN ÄHEARNE: Now let me ask a similar question. You say upgrade training and qualifications of NRC personnel. Are you saying -- Is it the general sense that our people are not sufficiently well-trained or that they aren't sufficiently competent?

MR. THORNBURG: It is not the latter. Here again we don't have— Some of our qualification levels — and the field people felt this particularly. I'm not sure I would personally go that far, but they felt that we didn't have enough specificity in stating the qualifications for the various types of inspectors and this sort of thing, and that we ought to come out and say what they are in fairly definite terms and make darn sure people meet them.

And if it comes to examining boards and this sort of thing they felt more formality should be placed on the system and that we should have more technical training in a number of areas.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: How do you relate this to

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Three Mile Island? What was it that was lacking in the unlicensed personnel that you would like to have found and that would be there if they were licensed?

MR. THORNBURG: Will you give me a moment to refresh myself?

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Sure.

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: While he's looking, can I help you?

Maybe the maintenance crew, if indeed it was the maintenance crew that shut off the auxiliary feedwater block valves, that apparently it was their final pass through that process and a failure to open them, although the situation is certainly murky in view of testimony both ways on it.

One could contemplate if you had a little more contact with the maintenance chiefs and so on, there might be a little more of a sense of preserving the safety envelope of the plant and worrying about it than there was.

As a matter of fact there has been a recent incident where -- I don't think of any great import, but one of those situations where part of the safety protection was degraded a little bit because of some equipment being down for a limited period of time. The maintenance crew went in on the other train and -- well, it wasn't a complete blockout of the situation. If anything had happened operators could have taken manual action to recover it.

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sensitivity on the part of the maintenance organization to preserve that redundant safety protective envelope around the system.

And there was a feeling that if you -- I don't know whether the Licensing people had the right answer or not, but if you provide some better interface with the regulatory system to make them more aware of the need to protect that safety envelope.

It's a specimen. I'm sure there are others.

MR. STELLO: As a generality, I think the recent six months or so have shown that when equipment that is important to safety has somehow been lost from service it's as a result of actions that are generally taken by unlicensed people.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Is that the kind of people you're talking about, maintenance crews, people who get their hands on the equipment, or are you talking about --

MR. THORNBURG: Auxiliary operators, maintenance people, instrument technicians.

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: That's what I was looking for.

COMMISSIONER HENDRIE: The instrument techs in the control room would drive you out of your mind.

MR. THORNBURG: I thought you were also asking me for the TMI connection and there is one, and Dr. Hendrie brings

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up one aspect of it, but also our people have thought for a long time that we ought to do something in this area, and it is a carry-through of that.

So to be quite honest with you --

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Well, I wasn't clear if you had in mind maintenance crews or higher level supervisors.

MR. THORNBURG: Even the supervisors, too, the maintenance foreman, the maintenance supervisor, and the maintenance people that do hands-on work.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Let's move along.

MR. THORNBURG: Okay.

Minimum staffing requirements for licensees. Our people would like to see that second man in the control room.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Is this a specific recommendation?

MR. THORNBURG: That's part of it. The main thing is we ought to make sure that an adequate number of people are present in the control room. But specifically we would like to make sure that there are enough qualified people there when the need arises.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Now before you go on to the next could I ask? I think you were scheduled for an hour.

MR. STELLO: An hour and a half is what the agenda says, and it is our intent to be finished in an hour and a half.

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CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Fine.

MR. THORNBURG: Slide Number 6, please.

(Slide.)

Well, here we're talking about areas in our own program that we think IE can control more, or areas that we think that we should upgrade our program in.

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The first area was upgrade design review. I addressed that a bit in response to one of Commissioner Kennedy's questions.

We believe design played a role in TMI and other recent experiences indicate problems in this area, the pipe hanger business and some of the seismic calculations. We did go back and review ECCS calculations and we think we ought to change our tack in design review to do more of a technical review, do more review of as-built systems, review design, field design, and this sort of thing.

We are looking at upgrading our construction inspection program based on Lessons Learned at TMI and based on
other problems that have arisen recently. I have a group of
section chiefs and branch chiefs in the regions working with
my staff and we've got a program. We hope by the end of the
year we'll make some short-term changes and focus on the
longer-term changes that should be made, and we believe we are
making real progress.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: What's the nature of the changes?

MR. THORNBURG: Well, we're talking about how we can change some of our strategies to make every attempt possible to do more hands-on inspection, more independent verification, more independent measurement, and to the extent we can do away with paper reviews and this sort of thing, to

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look at some areas that we haven't devoted attention to in the past that maybe we should have.

Maybe we should look more at foundations and structures in several areas that we cut back a few years ago when we were in a manpower crunch in the construction program.

A look at how we might -- well, 'ook at making sure that our resident inspectors do as much independent verification as possible. Our construction residents, it appears in the beginning of the program at least, are doing a lot of other things. We've got to cut that down.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: What are the other things?

MR. THORNBURG: Well, some of it has been paper work.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Let's see what we can do about that.

MR. THORNBURG: We're working on that.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We have more reports than we can use. We aren't getting as much inspection as we can use.

MR. THORNBURG: We realize that. That's an area we're working in that appears early in some of our looks at the resident program.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Let me just note, in case there is any question in anybody's mind, I don't believe you can operate a reactor safely if you haven't built it right,

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and safety in this business begins with building, and you don't fix it later all that well.

I think we ought to be putting a great deal more emphasis on construction inspection.

MR. THORNBURG: We're looking at putting residents out on the sites earlier.

Now we've had some studies done of inspection strategies at the construction stage, and we compared paper work inspections to construction inspections where you watched the installation of things and compared it to testing. The test, the right test is probably worth more than watching construction if you don't watch it all and if you can't control every bit of what happens, every stage of what happens.

We're looking at that sort of thing and examining our program looking at some of the alternatives.

We believe we should continue with licensee performance evaluation. We're working on a program there.

We have been requested to brief you folks, maybe next week, and we're prepared to do that.

Continue the resident inspection program. Continue to emphasize independent measurements and independent verification. We are doing more and more as time passes in the independent measurements area.

We want to continue with our independent audits.

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Now we have some upgrades, upgrade the enforcement program. That is consistent with Dr. Kemeny.

Upgrade quality assurance. Our approach here is saying we ought to concentrate more on making sure the program works, the licensee's program works, rather than looking at the form of it.

And some other approaches are to get more requirements and change the program or the procedures. I think we've just got to simply concentrate on making sure it works and that it's effective.

And we believe we should pay more attention to quality assurance during the preoperational test and startup stages.

We want to upgrade our inspection of outage and maintenance and system modifications. TM speaks eloquently about that.

We want to upgrade onsite safety reviews. We want to make sure that the people onsite are really doing a technical review of our operations and their maintenance and their modifications, and that these things are being thought of and done in a technically acceptable and systematic fashion.

We think attention ought to be given in the IE organization to assure --

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Before you go into that, all these upgrade words that you used, does that carry with it-- 1b5

Does "upgrade" mean refocus attention, or does it mean add

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additional personnel?

MR. THORNBURG: Probably upgrade outage and main-

tenance in spection -- Where you're going to do more inspec-

tion it is going to cost people directly.

Onsite safety reviews. In that case that means

7 you'll ask the resident to go sit with them. He won't be

an active member but he ought to hear what's going on, making

sure the system works. That probably won't cost us too much,

at least just off the top of my head.

Upgrade QA. That may cost us some more in watching

work that goes on but I don't see that it is a tremendous

cost.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Continue, please.

MR. THORNBURG: What we're saying here is the I&E

organization should be configured to make sure that pending

changes are carried out effectively and efficiently, and that

the resident inspection program can be carried out and ad-

ministered and managed effectively.

Then we think we ought to rethink our approach to

21 procedures and administrative controls. There are some ad-

22 ministrative controls that are very, very important and we

just think maybe some of those probably ought to be bird-dogged.

When it comes to testing ECCS systems and core cooling systems

and this sort of thing I think it is not a bad idea to go

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behind them and check the breakers and the valves and this sort of thing.

The approach on procedures. We have always looked at procedures in terms of, you know, is the format all right, and sometimes we have looked more at the form than the substance. We want to make sure they will work. We want to make sure people can understand them, that they are a set of instructions that can be carried out successfully, and this sort of thing.

Slide 8, please.

(Slide.)

Here we looked at ourselves in the response area. We believe essentially the lines of authority and responsibility in the responsive area ought to be clarified within the agency, within I&E and among the agencies.

We believe that— There are several areas, policy areas in an emergency that we think ought to be clarified: the applicability of license and regulations during emergency situations; how far would you compromise security in terms of safety and vice versa; regulation versus assistance in the emergency situation; and then direction of licensees and that sort of thing.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: On these clarifications of policy, are these things that you will be proposing clarifications or are you requesting? 1658 096

MR. STELLO: We are already doing that. A substantial part of that is underway.

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COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And the rest of it presumably is in the Task Action Plan?

MR. STELLO: It's under way, too.

MR. THORNBURG: I traced these things at one point to the Task Action Plan to make sure we referenced the recommendation.

We believe that the emergency plan requirements ought to be tightened. Appendix A ought to be made a requirement. Any changes in emergency plans should be equivalent to unreviewed safety questions and, therefore, eligible for consideration under 50.59. --10 CFR 50.59.

We recommend upgrading preparedness both on the part of the Licensee and the NRC in terms of plans and procedures and training and qualification and facilities and equipment and communications and periodic drills, and this sort of thing.

That's it.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Vic, do you have any further comments?

MR. STELLO: In closing, let me go back to my earlier statement. We are in the process of preparing to go from the recommendations of the group that studied I&E and decided that things might be productive in improving the process to looking at their recommendations and a variety of others, incorporating them into the Task Action Plans. There's

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Action Plans, and I think maybe I'll have a lot more to say about that when we talk about the Task Action Plans this afternoon. It is a very, very large job to examine ourselves, the recommendations that are made, and set the priorities and recommendations. And, if you will, I think we're going to be setting the way in which the agency will be conducting itself for the next five years. And we're doing that in a fairly short time. It is a very big job.

I guess, with that, I'll wait until this afternoon to expand on it.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Let me ask one question:

After having gone through that report, and having obviously talked to (inaudible) -- Harry and you, and so forth -- how would you characterize the general flavor of what I&E's report says ought to be done? And let me give you one possible interpretation, and then see whether or not you have an additional one.

One possible interpretation might be, the general flavor is that we ought to increase the amount of regulation and increase the number of people doing the inspections.

MR. STELLO: Those are the two conclusions. Given that you implement what's here, in one form or another, it will be to come up with more requirements, one way or the other. And that's the natural outfall of the ISE process,

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because there's a natural tendency to want to inspect and enforce against the requirements that are clear to the inspectors. So there is a tendency to want to go in the direction of making more of what's available available in a checklist fashion, so that the individuals doing the inspection truly know what's required. That tries to evolve more and more in the way of requirements.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: But then there isn't -- at least I didn't get the flavor, and I did not read it in detail, but I didn't get the flavor of -- and I'm not saying that it should be there: I'm just asking. I didn't get the flavor that there would be a recommendation for a fundamental change in the way I&E goes about its business, or a fundamental change that NRC lays on its requirements which I&E would then enforce.

MR. STELLO: I think Harry covered that, if I remember, in the first or second slide. The general conclusion is that the general business of IE as it is structured is sound, just: let's do more. And it has identified the areas where the "more" in their judgment would be best served.

Now I don't like to use the collection of the recommendations to go beyond even Three Mile Island. But it's those things that are the integrated thinking. And I tried not to distill that out but to go even beyond Three Mile Island to make the I&E effort a better effort. And I think it

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is good to have that. It's in that sense that it's kind of a wish list of a lot of things that are nice to do. And now the task is to decide from those which really are the issues that now we need to speak to.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Well certainly it would be valuable to I&E since you now have the opportunity to have some of your people, as Harry just said, spend a concentrated length of time looking at their own organization, reaching conclusions on things that ought to be upgraded, concentrated, and so forth. That obviously is a refocusing of a lot of effort within I&E. So it clearly will have that kind of a payoff.

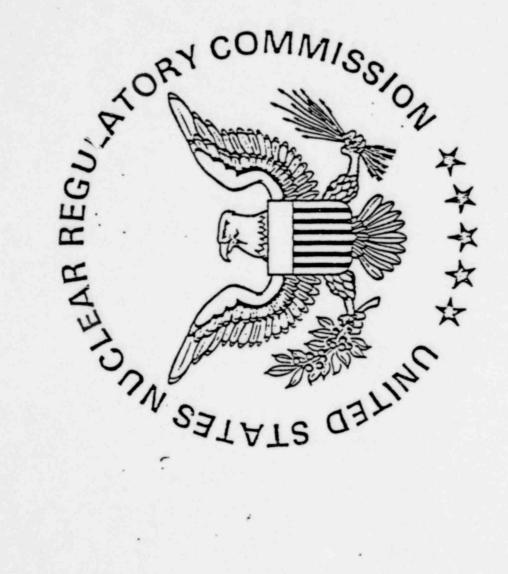
MR. STELLO: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN AHEARNE: Thank you all.

(Whereupon, at 10:45 a.m., the Commission meeting was concluded.)

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BACKGROUND

- . STELLO MEMO JULY, 1979
- . SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE
 - -- IMPROVE IE CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC SAFETY
 - -- LESSONS LEARNED FROM TMI

SRG COMPOSITION

- . SIX (6) FIELD INSPECTORS
- . FOUR (4) FIELD SECTION CHIEFS
- . THREE (3) HEADQUARTERS MANAGERS
- . MIX OF EXPERIENCE, ASSIGNMENTS, PERSPECTIVE

LEVEL OF EFFORT

- . 12 WEEKS ALL HOURS
- . REGIONAL PEOPLE AWAY FROM HOME

- . IE INVESTIGATION REPORT AVAILABLE
- . NRR LESSONS LEARNED REPORT AVAILABLE
- . REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION NOT AVAILABLE

- . ~ 200 GENERAL AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
- RANGE IN IMPORTANCE

"SRG HAS PERFORMED THIS REVIEW AND HAS MADE ITS RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WITH CANDOR. THE SRG BELIEVES WITH EQUAL CANDOR THAT THE IE PROGRAM IS, IN GENERAL, SOUNDLY BASED AND HAS BEEN TO A LARGE EXTENT, ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER IT RECOGNIZES THAT DEFICIENCIES EXIST THAT NEED CORRECTION. IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT THE MANY SPECIFIC AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE."

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

NRC POLICY

- DEFINITION OF SAFETY-RELATED
- RECONSIDER SHARED SYSTEMS
- UPGRADE RADIATION PROTECTION
- RECOGNIZE OTHER CODES AND STANDARDS
- UNDERSTAND HUMAN FACTORS
- COMPONENT QUALIFICATION
- EXTEND NRC AUTHORITY TO NSSS AND AE'S
- EXPERIENCE EVALUATION
- . OFFICE INTERACTION/RESOLUTION OF SAFETY ISSUES
- UPGRADE TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS OF LICENSED AND UNLICENSED PERSONNEL/NRC PERSONNEL
- MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSEES

IE PROGRAM

- . UPGRADE DESIGN REVIEW
- . UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROGRAM
- . CONTINUE WITH LICENSEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
- . CONTINUE RESIDENT INSPECTION PROGRAM
- . CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE INDEPENDENT MEASUREMENTS/INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION
- . CONTINUE INTERNAL AUDITS
- UPGRADE ENFORCEMENT
- . UPGRADE QA
- . UPGRADE OUTAGE AND MAINTENANCE INSPECTION
- . UPGRADE ONSITE SAFETY REVIEWS
- . IE ORGANIZATION
- . RETHINK PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

RESPONSIVE

- . CLARIFY LINES OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
- . CLARIFY EMERGENCY POLICY
- . TIGHTEN REQUIREMENTS
- . UPGRADE PREPAREDNESS (LICENSEES AND NRC)