

RIC 2003

Operating Experience Assessments

Session T9

Status of NRC's Evaluation of Operating Experience Functions

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Overview of Current NRC Reactor Operating Experience Programs

Background

- Management Directive 8.5 provides current agency policy
- AEOD operating experience functions have been assigned to RES (long-term) and NRR (short-term)

Key Operating Experience Activities: NRR

- Prompt screening, review, dissemination and follow-up of operating experience input
- Internal and external communications
 - Generic communications
 - Event briefings
 - Web posting
- Industry Trends Program
- Review of foreign events, e.g., INES/IRS

Key Operating Experience Activities: RES

- Generic Issues program
- Independent assessments
- Regulatory effectiveness reviews
- Performance Indicators
- Accident Sequence Precursor program
- Standardized Plant Analysis Risk model development program
- Industry-wide studies
- Reactor performance data collection program

Areas for Improvement

- Communication – breaking ‘silo effect’
- User needs – packaging
- Closure – follow-on verification
- Database – integration and user-friendliness
- Foreign operating experience

Operating Experience Action Plan

- Initiative to improve operating experience program began in December 2001
- Davis-Besse LLTF recommendations in September 2002
- Three-phase approach
 - Objective Phase: program objectives and attributes
 - Assessment Phase: functional requirements, user needs, gap/overlap analysis, and specific recommendations
 - Implementation Phase (line organizations)
- Interoffice Task Force/Steering Committee responsible for the first two phases
- Overall systematic review and enhancement of the agency's reactor operating experience program