

# **RIC 2004 – International Issues – Session W8**

## **PROMOTING THE TRANSPARENCY OF NUCLEAR REGULATION IN THE UK THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

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# **BACKGROUND (1)**

## **- UK Nuclear Regulatory System**

- Main Legislation – Health and Safety at Work Act & Nuclear Installations Act (NIA)
- Based on Principle of Reducing Risks so Far As Is Reasonably Practicable
- NIA requires all nuclear activities (except those by Crown employees) to be covered by a site licence granted by HSE (HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations)
- Non-prescriptive goal setting regime
- 36 Standard Licence Conditions - same for all types of facilities
- Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) grants nuclear site licences, assesses, inspects, enforces, gives permissions, issues specifications etc, advises, secures adequate research

# **BACKGROUND (2)**

## **- Openness**

### **Legal Requirements & Constraints:**

- At present no Freedom of Information Act (but one being developed)
- No specific requirement in Health and Safety at Work Act (HASW) or Nuclear Installations Act (NIA) for openness
- Health & Safety at Work Act stops us from disseminating information about licensees' operations without their consent unless in public interest

**But HSE/NII policy is to work on the presumption of openness**

# Some Reasons to Communicate Effectively (1)

- Public Servants acting in the public interest
- To arrive at better decisions
- To engender public & political confidence
- To move us further along the road to being a world class organisation - EFQM
- To achieve HSE's Vision
- To fulfil NII's Mission

# **Some Reasons to Communicate Effectively (2)**

HSE VISION FOR UK

**“Health and Safety as a Cornerstone of a Civilised Society”**

# **Some Reasons to Communicate Effectively (3)**

## **NII MISSION**

“To secure effective control of health, safety and radioactive waste management at nuclear sites for the protection of the public and workers, and **to further public confidence in the nuclear regulatory system by being open about what we do.”**

# Some Reasons to Communicate Effectively (4)

To be transparent about:

What we do, how and why

- What it is based on
- What we require
- What we decide, how and why
- In particular, about judgements about licences, major permissions, specifications, special audits, etc

And to be more effective.



# OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- The Public
- The Workers
- The Licensees
- The Government
- Parliament
- Local Authorities
- Other Regulators
- NGO's
- The Media
- Other Countries
- International Organisations
- Etc

# WHAT WE DO TO COMMUNICATE (1) - PROACTIVE

- General Basis for Our Work
- Major Decisions
- Major Audits & Investigations
- Site Inspection Activities for each site
- Regular Newsletters & Press Briefings
- Regular Reports to Ministers
- Regularly Talk to Boards, Chairs & CE's of the Major Licensees and to Government Departments
- Talks at conferences, stakeholders meetings, etc
- [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

# WHAT WE DO TO COMMUNICATE (2) - PROACTIVE

## General Basis for Our Work:

- Publish Requirements for Applying for a Nuclear Site Licence
- Publish our Safety Assessment Principles used by our Assessors as Basis to Adjudge all Safety Cases
- Publish Guidance Issued to our Assessors to Assist their Judgements
- Publish our Strategic Plan

# WHAT WE DO TO COMMUNICATE (3) - PROACTIVE

## Major Decisions, Audits & Investigations:

- Major Change in the Nuclear Industry involving Granting Licence(s) – Restructuring of Nuclear Power Generation, Atomic Weapons Establishment
- Periodic Safety Reviews to allow Facilities to continue to Operate
- Consents to Reactor Decommissioning Environment Impact Assessments & Reviews of Licensees' Decommissioning Strategies
- Audits with Significant Public Interest – MoX Falsification, Sellafield Control and Supervision, Dounreay, British Energy
- Investigations with Significant Public Interest – Dropped Fuel Incident at Chapelcross NPP

# WHAT WE DO TO COMMUNICATE (4) - PROACTIVE

## Site Inspection Activities:

- Each major licensed nuclear site has a local liaison committee(LLC) involving public representatives.
- Every quarter the NII site inspector prepares a LLC Report describing regulatory activities and outcomes at that site over the previous 3 months. These are publicly available on the HSE website.
- Site Inspectors attend LLC meetings, report on any regulatory actions taken and respond to any questions raised there.
- Site Inspectors regularly meet with Workers' Representatives

# WHAT WE DO TO COMMUNICATE (5) - REACTIVE

- Public Inquiries and Select Committees – to Build Sizewell B, Trawsfydd Decommissioning, Devonport Submarine Refuelling Facilities, NP restructuring
- Parliamentary Questions and particular concerns of Members of Parliament
- Letters and enquiries from members of the public, workers, media and others
- Local Authorities concerns about major changes
- Concerns of other Governments (Ireland, Norway)
- Particular concerns of NGOs (HLW, Graphite)

# WHAT WE DON'T DO

- Have public meetings about each and every decision we take
- Proactively publish a report about each and every decision, assessment, inspection, enforcement action
- Provide copies of all the Licensees' information we hold or have access to

# SOME ISSUES?

1. Security versus Openness
2. Regulatory Effectiveness/Efficiency versus Openness
  - Using New Ways of Working to further the HSE Vision for UK H&S
  - Impact on Regulatory Decisions
  - Resourcing – amount and type
  - Escalation of work
3. Commercial Confidentiality versus Openness
4. PR & spin versus Personal Integrity and Duties as Public Servant