

# **International Use of Operating Experience Session A4**

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- **Prerequisites : Information has to be**
  - shared
  - understood
  - used
  
- **By whom ?**
  - Operators
  - Regulators
  
- **What information ?**
  - Abnormal events
  - Good operating practices

- **The French situation**
  - One operator
  - 58 reactors
  - They are standardized
  
- **Much relevant domestic OEF**
  - 650 events rated on the INES scale (56 level 1, 1 level 2)
  - OEF system globally effective
    - Organized by EDF headquarters
    - Based on significant databases
    - Relevant (standardization)
  
- **A danger: to neglect international OEF**

- **Role of the regulator**
  - To check that the operator uses international OEF
  - To require that the appropriate lessons are learnt
  - To contribute to share information on events and practices
  
- **In practice:**
  - Selection by EDF of the relevant international information, proposals on the way of handling it
  - Selection by ASN and IRSN of the relevant international information
  - Confrontation leading to :
    - list of events, relevant for French NPPs
    - analyses, lessons derived

- **IRS**
  - Easy access to the most relevant events, though not all
  - Example : France releases 10 IRS reports per year
  - Time between the event and the IRS update
  - Appropriate level of detail
- **AIEA Web site**
  - Information issued on time
  - Short summary, but enough for a first analysis (selection)
- **Regulators Web sites**
  - Barrier of language in some cases
  - About 100 events per year on the ASN web site...  
... in French up to now

# Discussions Between Regulators: A Way of Promoting Use of OEF

- **Bilateral meetings**
  - Yearly meetings with several of our counterparts
  - Discussions on most relevant events and on the regulatory responses to these events
- **Exchanges of personnel**
- **International discussions**
  - OECD / NEA / CNRA
  - IAEA / CSS and Committees
  - International meetings

# Examples of International Use of Experience Feedback

- **European benchmark of fuel manufacturing facilities**
  - **Why fuel manufacturing facilities ?**
    - **To examine how safety reassessment was performed, and to identify best practices**
    - **No more than one facility per country**
    - **Need to go abroad to benchmark**
  - **Six plants visited in Europe (2002)**
  - **It has triggered exchanges between the operators !**
  
- **EPR: more than 1000 reactor.years of French-German operating experience feedback**
  - **Designers**
  - **Utilities**
  - **Regulators**

# Are We Satisfied ?

## Ways for Improvement

- **Enough information available**
  - Need for transparency
- **Examples of insufficient use of information**
  - Sump filters clogging phenomena
    - Issue still not solved more than ten years after the Barsebäck event
  - Corrosion of pressure vessel heads
    - Bugey event (1991)
  - => Tendency to consider that foreign OEF is not relevant
- **Exchange of personnel and international relations are a way to develop awareness**



# Open Questions

- **Sharing information between competitors**
  - Operating organizations
  - Designers and manufacturers
- **How to check that the operators share OEF?**