



USNRC Perspectives on National and International Event Response

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NRC role in Federal Response

- NRC is lead agency for Federal response to incidents at NRC-licensed facilities, materials, and Agreement States
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may coordinate Federal response for events of offsite consequences
- If incident is complex, Department of Homeland Security is responsible for coordinating Federal "unity of effort"
 - NRC maintains lead for Federal onsite response
- NRC will provide leadership and subject matter expertise for Federal task forces on events relating to NRC licensees



NRC role in Federal Response (cont.)

- Depending on the nature, scope, and complexity of the event, the NRC carries out its incident response missions by responding with staff at:
 - One or more regional offices
 - NRC's headquarters/Headquarters Operations Center
 - The nuclear power plant or facility
 - Other Federal, State and local response locations
- The NRC incident response program includes:
 - Reactor/plant and operations technical assessment
 - Radiological dose and protective measure assessment
 - Federal and State coordination
 - Public Information and external communications
 - Liaison with Congress, states, and the international community


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NRC role in International Response

- IAEA Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and the Convention on Assistance –taken together known as ENAC, were adopted and entered into force after Chernobyl
- NRC is obligated, through both U.S. government commitments to IAEA and NRC bilateral information exchange arrangements, to promptly notify international counterparts of events of significance
- Such notifications are embedded in the Headquarters Operations Center's international liaison procedures (prompt notification to the U.S. Department of State, IAEA, Canada and Mexico)
- IAEA shares event information with international community
- NRC provides and also receives information through IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) in Vienna, Austria


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NRC role in International Response (cont.)

- The Early Notification and Assistance Conventions (ENAC) provide requirements for member states, including:
 - Each country shall identify competent authorities and points of contact for both requesting and providing assistance (the State Department/U.S. Mission to IAEA, for the U.S.)
 - Requesting state maintains overall direction, control, coordination and supervision of received assistance
 - Establishes framework for confidentiality of information and public statements; reimbursement of costs; privileges, immunities and facilities; transit of personnel, equipment and property; and claims and compensation


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NRC role in International Response (cont.)

- For incidents that might occur outside the U.S. and that may have an effect or a perceived effect on U.S., the NRC is a supporting agency for technical response in accordance with the U.S. Government's International Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Protocol (June 2014)
 - Example: Fukushima
 - NRC supported the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo and supported, when asked, the Japanese regulatory authority

International Exercise Participation

- Regularly exercising with the national and international "whole community" will assist in gaining a more complete understanding of the impacts of the event and response measures
- Partnerships need to be practiced and relationships developed before an accident
- NRC supports IAEA ENAC exercises (ConvEx)
- NRC regularly includes USIE notifications in its domestic exercises

Information Exchange

- The harmonization of public messaging between U.S./NRC and other countries' nuclear regulatory authorities and the IAEA is practiced regularly
- Exchange information with IAEA, and other international stakeholders, to ensure there is a common understanding of emergency conditions, and enabling the international community to conduct a global assessment and prognosis process
 - NRC and IAEA play regularly to practice this exchange. This is done using the IAEA Unified System for Information Exchange (USIE) and technical exchanges, using IAEA tools and expert-to-expert discussions
 - As requested, review and comment on any public messaging that IAEA may be considering

Conclusions

- Consistent with international treaties as discussed herein, and consistent with our openness values, the USNRC recognizes its key role in communicating with international entities on events of mutual interest or concern
- We view it as incumbent on all nations who utilize nuclear energy (including our own) to be open and to make prompt notification to other countries about events or significant releases of radioactive materials, particularly where such releases cross, or might cross, international boundaries


