



# International Cooperation on Vendor Oversight

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# Topics

- ASN component manufacturing oversight
- Lessons learned from EPR fabrication oversight
- International cooperation : MDEP working group
- Bilateral cooperation : US NRC / ASN

# The French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)

- 1 EPR under construction
- Several replacement steam generators under construction
- 50 vendor inspections carried out by ASN in 2008

# Component Manufacturing Inspection

3 types of inspections :

- Indirect inspections  
(inspections of licensee's surveillance of the vendor)
- QA audits
- Sample technical inspections

# Lessons Learned from EPR Fabrication Oversight

- 1) Subcontractors should be carefully monitored by the vendor and the licensee
- 2) Schedule is more and more taken into account by vendors
- 3) Component manufacturing requires a high level of know-how

# Lessons Learned from EPR Fabrication Oversight (Cont'd)

- 4) Vendor competence is shared with key subcontractors
- 5) The forging of big components is a key step in manufacturing
- 6) Regulator oversight is enhanced by sample technical inspections

# International Cooperation: MDEP Working Group

Two objectives:

- (1) improving the efficiency of vendor inspections
- (2) taking into account vendor inspections performed by other regulators.

Accomplishments to date :

- regulatory practice comparison
- joint inspections

# International Cooperation: MDEP Working Group (Cont'd)

Next steps :

- Multinational QA audits
- Bilateral agreement on technical inspections
- Cooperation on long-lead-items oversight



# Bilateral Cooperation: US NRC / ASN

- Close relationship between US NRC and ASN :
  - Several exchanges about EPR
  - Technical exchanges
  - Staff exchanges
- Several joint inspections performed in 2007 and 2008 and scheduled in 2009

# Bilateral Cooperation: US NRC / ASN (Cont'd)

## Conclusion :

- Many similarities in vendor inspection practices
- inspection scope and frequency are different

## Next steps :

- Common QA audits
- Use of each other's technical inspections