

Stakeholders and Radiation Protection: Lessons from Chernobyl after 20 years

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Introduction

- Collection of lessons learned in working with some stakeholders living in contaminated areas from the Chernobyl accident.
- Sharing the experience of these collaborative efforts will enhance the radiation protection professions contribution to the planning, response, recovery, and rehabilitation from potential future events.
- Activity conducted by members of the Nuclear Energy Agency's Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH)
- Report to be published in the Spring 2006

Lessons Learned - General Principles

- Stakeholder involvement
- Engagement and trust
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Integrating radiation protection into everyday life
- Voluntary involvement
- Recognizing the limits of models
- Bottom-up approach

Lessons Learned - General Principles Continued

- Collective learning
- An adequately complex response
- Sound science
- Openness to engagement at every stage
- Pluralistic validation and feedback
- Re-emergency of self reliance
- Sustainability

Lessons Learned - Stakeholders Assessment

- Valuing involvement
- Closer and more productive relationships
- Tangible objectives
- A contextual approach

Implications of Lessons Learned

- Applicable to current day planning for the future as society expects to be involved in decisions affecting their lives.
- Applicable to situations with the potential for radiological contamination of the environment - industrial accident or deliberate act (e.g., RDD).
- Stakeholder involvement process is a tool to enhance success during planning for, response to, and recovery and rehabilitation from an event.

Opportunities for Implementation

- Become knowledgeable on the stakeholder involvement process.
- Plan for response, recovery, and rehabilitation with stakeholders.
- Establish multidisciplinary teams of professionals.
- Conduct outreach to build trusting relationships between policy makers, professionals and stakeholders.
- Commit to ongoing support to enhance trust and understanding between parties.

NEA/CRPPH Ongoing Activities

- Continue to enhance member country emergency preparedness through the conduct of exercises as part of the International Nuclear Emergency Exercise (NEX) program.
- Publish the NEA “Stakeholders and Radiation Protection: Lessons from Chernobyl after 20 years” report, Spring 2006.
- Continue work with the international radiation protection community in understanding and sharing lessons learned.
- Continue outreach to engage stakeholders.

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