The Remarks of Commissioner William C. Ostendorff

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

24th Annual Regulatory Information Conference
Rockville, Maryland
March 14, 2012

U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

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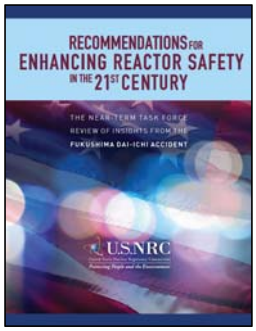
Near-Term Task Force Report



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AP1000 Design Certification Rule

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 52

RIN 3150–AI81

[NRC–2010–0131]

AP1000 Design Certification Amendment

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is amending its regulations to certify an amendment to the AP1000 standard plant design. The amendment replaces the combined license (COL) information items and design acceptance criteria (DAC) with specific design information, addresses the effects of the impact of a large commercial aircraft, incorporates design improvements, and increases standardization of the design. This action is necessary so that applicants or licensees intending to construct and operate an AP1000 design may do so by referencing this regulation (AP1000 design certification rule (DCR)), and need not demonstrate in their applications the safety of the certified design as amended. The applicant for

Federal Register / Vol. 76, No. 251 / Friday, December 30, 2011 / Rules and Regulations 82079

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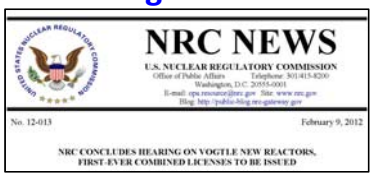
Vogtle COL



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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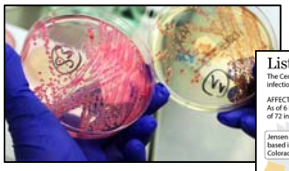
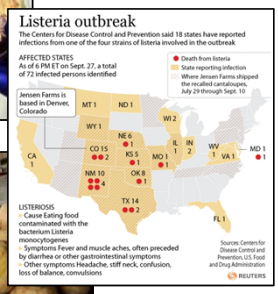
Blog: http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov

No. 12-013 February 9, 2012

NRC CONCLUDES HEARING ON VOGTLE NEW REACTORS, FIRST-EVER COMBINED LICENSES TO BE ISSUED





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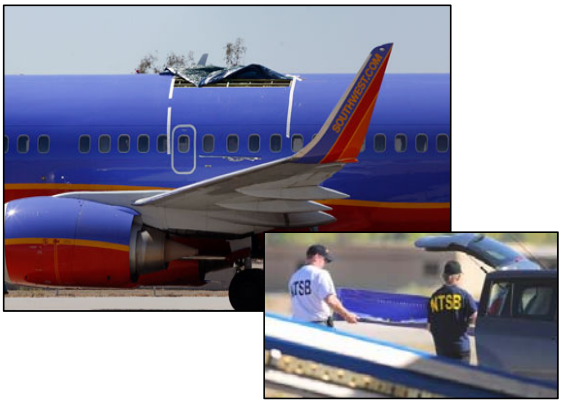

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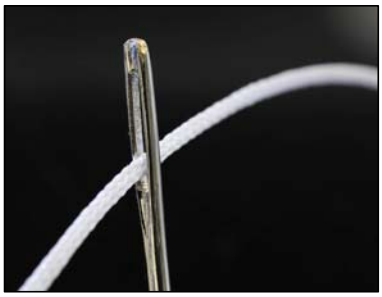
Common Thread?



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How we ***communicate***

directly affects

public trust & confidence.

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Communications . . .

- Early
  - Accurate
    - Understandable

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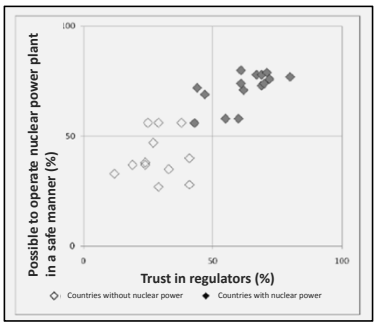
Trust in the Regulator



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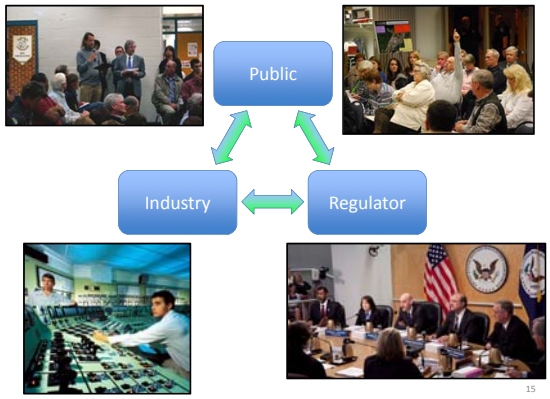

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Communication is . . .

Enduring

Universal

Continuously Improving

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Fukushima

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NRC Operations Center Response

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Lines of Communication

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Crisis ***communications*** are ***vitally*** important for:

- Operators
- Emergency Responders
- Company Executives
- Government Officials
- Members of the Public

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What about our non-emergency communications?

Clear, understandable, and frequent communications have a direct, positive effect on trust.

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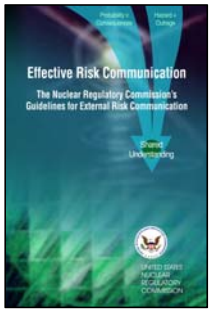
Effective Communication



What You Must Know:

1) Who is your audience?
2) What is their level of understanding?
3) What is your communication objective?

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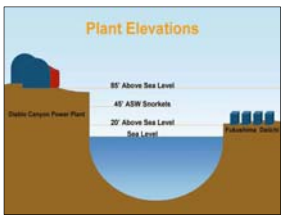
Who is Your Audience?

Example – U.S. Plant Safety

Current U.S. Plant Safety

- **Similar sequence of events in the U.S. is unlikely**
- **Existing mitigation measures could reduce the likelihood of core damage and radiological releases**
- **No imminent risk from continued operation and licensing activities**



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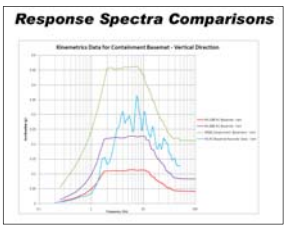
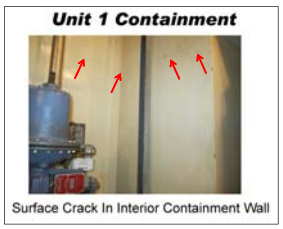
What Do They Already Understand?

Example – North Anna Earthquake





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What is Your Objective?

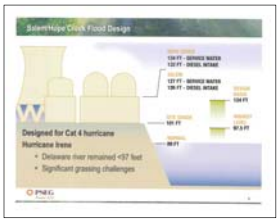
Example – Flood Design

"U.S. energy sector braces for direct hit from Irene"
August 25, 2011
http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/25/storm-irene-energy-idUSN1677O1W120110825

"Nuclear Reactors on East Coast Brace for Hurricane Irene's Wrath"
August 25, 2011
http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-26/nuclear-reactors-on-east-coast-brace-for-hurricane-irene-s-wrath.html

"U.S. nuclear plants in path of Hurricane Irene"
August 26, 2011
http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/26/nuclear-usa-northeast-idUSN1677O0ZF20110826

"Severe flooding is feared within days"
August 29, 2011
http://www.news.com.au/world/severe-flooding-is-feared-within-days/story-fndo0tbr-1226124120572



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Effective Risk Communication

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Meaningful Engagement

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Meaningful engagement with stakeholders…

The time to build trust with the public is before a major event or emergency occurs.

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Closing Take-Aways

1) Assess your communication tools
   - Tailor your communications to the scientific literacy of your audience.
2) Critique your communications
   - Are you achieving your objectives?
3) Proactively communicate
   - Seek out those who might not agree with you.

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