

NRC Actions Immediately Following Fukushima



- Began 24-hour staffing of Operations Center – “monitoring mode”
- Dispatched team of technical experts to Japan
- Coordinated with other Federal agencies, regulatory counterparts in other countries, and industry (INPO)
- Quickly conveyed specific actions to inspection staff and licensees to verify plants’ capabilities to mitigate severe accident conditions
 - NRC inspectors assessed licensee readiness to respond to earthquakes and tsunamis at all US nuclear power plants (March-April 2011)
- Established senior-level Near-Term Task Force to conduct six-month review of technical and policy issues and identify potential regulatory adjustments

Subsequent and Planned NRC Actions



- NRC inspectors followed up the March inspection by assessing licensee readiness to implement guidelines to manage severe accidents at all US nuclear power plants (May-June 2011)
- Near-Term Task Force Report issued: “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century” (July 12, 2011)
- Commission Issued Staff Requirements Memorandum with Next Steps (August 19, 2011):
 - By 8/26/2011, develop a charter for the structure, scope, and expectations for assessing the Task Force recommendations (Completed)
 - By 9/9/2011, identify Task Force recommendations that can be implemented without unnecessary delay. (Completed)
 - By 10/3/2011, recommend a prioritization of all the Task Force recommendations. (In progress)
 - Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) will formally review all Task Force recommendations and the staff’s evaluation and recommended prioritization of the Task Force recommendations.
 - Within 18 months, the staff will submit a notation vote paper to the Commission outlining a regulatory framework for adequate protection that appropriately balances defense-in-depth and risk considerations.

Future Impact of MDEP



- The NRC is contemplating regulatory changes.
- MDEP is a venue to share and discuss insights and actions contemplated by national authorities.
- In the end, even if regulatory authorities decide on different responsive measures, we will all benefit from our work in MDEP and other venues by hearing other perspectives on the issues that are raised.