

Nuclear Energy Institute Industry Initiative on Groundwater Protection

Objectives:

1. Improve management of situations involving inadvertent radiological releases that get into groundwater.
2. Enhance trust and confidence on the part of local communities, States, the NRC, and the public in the nuclear industry's commitment to a high standard of public radiation safety and protection of the environment.

Actions:

By July 31, 2006, each member company operating or decommissioning a nuclear power plant will:

1. Put in place a company/site-specific action plan(s) to help assure timely detection and effective response to situations involving inadvertent radiological releases in groundwater to prevent migration of licensed radioactive material offsite and quantify impacts on decommissioning.
2. Expand the scope of the licensee's existing Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) reporting requirements to include additional voluntary formal and informal reporting as follows:
 - 2.1 Document all onsite groundwater sample results and a description of any significant onsite leaks/spills into groundwater for each calendar year in the Annual REMP Report, beginning with the report covering the calendar year 2006;
 - 2.2 Submit a 30-day report to the NRC for any water sample result for onsite groundwater that is or may be used as a source of drinking water that exceeds the criteria in the licensee's existing REMP for 30-day reporting of offsite water sample results. Copies of 30-day reports for both onsite and offsite water samples will also be provided to the appropriate State agency; and
 - 2.3 Make informal notification as soon as practicable to appropriate State/Local officials, with follow-up notification to the NRC, as appropriate, regarding significant onsite leaks/spills into groundwater (see Item 2.1) and onsite or offsite water sample results exceeding the criteria in the REMP (see Item 2.2).