

Facilitator's Summary Observations
on
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
Workshop on Performance
Assessments of Near-Surface Disposal
Facilities

Bret Leslie, Facilitator

Session #1 – Overview and Context

- Performance Assessment
 - Structured, systematic, iterative, learning process
 - Part of a decision
- Communication and Confidence Relationship
 - Providing the context (what, where, and why)
 - Engaging stakeholders (affected and peers): how (in person and web-based) and when
- International and U.S. approaches parallelisms
 - Safety case, safety functions, and biota
- Spectrum of cases: existing and future

Session #2 – Analysis of FEPs

- Approaches are tied to purpose
 - Top-down, bottom-up, no single way, safety function
- Criteria
 - Physical reasonableness, regulations, and a basis
- Guidance needed – minimal list, build on past
- Value of FEP Analysis and Cost Relationship
 - Structure, accountability, communication
- Out of the box and getting back in – redefine box
 - Model first approach, evolution of system

Session #3 – Scenario and Conceptual Model Development

- Stylized (limitations or value)
 - Starting point; flexibility
 - Credibility vs comparison
- Site specific essential
- Human intrusion
 - Purpose, approach, and communication
- Importance of time frame

Session #4 – Modeling

- Code selection and implementation
 - Not one solution ... not one problem
 - Timing of selection: defines the box
- Model Abstraction – conceptual and simplify
 - Systematic and comprehensive
 - Implementation, communication
 - Uncertainty
- Confidence Building
 - Support at each step (full vs simple system)