

Buried Piping



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Protecting People and the Environment

Bob Hardies, NRR

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Purpose

- Meeting
 - Discuss the Buried Piping Integrity Initiative
 - Prior meeting actions
 - Initiative scope
 - Deviation process
 - Risk Ranking
- Background
 - History
 - Current actions



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Issue

- Groundwater incidents in the 2005 timeframe led to improved groundwater monitoring by the industry
- Several leaks from buried piping in 2009 and 2010 resulted in groundwater contamination



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NRC Actions

- September 3, 2009, Chairman Jaczko tasked the staff with providing a summary of activities related to buried pipe
- December 3, 2009, SECY 09-0174 (ML093160004)
- May 18, 2010, Buried Piping Action Plan (ML101480739)
- September 14, 2010, Buried Piping Action Plan update (ML102590171)
- Meetings with industry 10/22/2010, 2/24/2010
- Letter to industry August 18, 2010 (ML102300270)



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Buried Piping Action Plan

- Data collection
 - Historical rate of incidence
 - Affected systems
 - System classifications
 - Tritium releases
- Program assessment
 - Assess Buried Piping Integrity Initiative
 - Temporary instruction for inspection of buried piping
 - Initiative details (scope, risk ranking, inspection techniques)
- Codes and standards
- Regulatory activities
 - License renewal
 - Commitments
 - Recommendations for rulemaking

- ASME Code
 - Met with ASME, Section XI August 6, 2008
- NACE International (formerly National Association of Corrosion Engineers)
 - Task group meeting this week



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NRC Actions

- Inspection
 - Temporary Instruction for inspection of buried piping activities
 - Expect decision this week
 - If decision is to proceed draft by end of year
 - Implementation by June 2011
- License renewal
 - Revised buried piping aging management program



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Industry Activities

- Buried Piping Integrity Initiative
 - Monitoring scope
 - Seeking to understand details
 - Risk ranking processes
 - Inspection techniques and processes
 - Guided wave
 - Excavations



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Performance

- Seeking to establish a pre-2009 incidence rate for leaks as a performance baseline
- Monitoring operating experience
- Evaluating need for commitments for initiative



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Conclusions

- NRC's objectives related to buried piping
 - Maintenance of intended function
 - Releases remain below regulatory limits
- Current regulations and industry activities are compatible with these objectives
- NRC is monitoring current events related to buried piping
- NRC is performing action plan activities