ALARA PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN EDF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

Keywords: OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES; ALARA; EDF

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Project Manager:

Objectives: Implement the ALARA principle during the operational phases of EDF’s installations, and especially during maintenance.

Comments: EDF has taken steps to implement ALARA at its plants. Issues considered are:
1) Implementation of the ALARA Process
   - integration of radioprotection into the power station management process
   - consider dosimetric indicators the same as other indicators concerning power station operation (maintenance cost, etc.)
   - the methodology applied is based on two levels: national and local; the fundamental principle is that of local responsibility and initiative
2) Longevity of the ALARA structures
   - The ALARA structures were implemented in late 1991, and it is too early to draw any conclusions concerning their longevity.
3) Incentives to apply the ALARA principle
   - EDF intends to direct motivation toward how to reduce exposure, not how to receive an award; therefore, no special incentives are considered for EDF staff.
   - Contractual incentives are offered to outside contractors.

Remarks/Potential for dose limitation: The long-term production of nuclear powered electricity requires that two conditions be met: (1) acceptance by public opinion and (2) ability to provide kWh at the lowest cost. Radioprotection plays a part in the fulfillment of both.

Today, EDF is basing its action on the ALARA concept, which is difficult to implement as it is based on the involvement of many participants. However, it is also very motivating, as national and international experience is showing excellent results.

Improved quality = Lower doses, and therefore higher economic efficiency.


Duration: from: 1993 to: 1995  
Funding: N/A

Status: In progress  
Last Update: December 1, 1993