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ENHANCED RADIATION WORKER TRAINING AT JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR PLANT

Keywords: OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES;
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Project Manager:

Objectives: Discuss the radiation protection problems at the New York Power Authority (NYPA) FitzPatrick Plant and steps taken to improve radiological performance.

Comments: The FitzPatrick Plant experienced a significant decline in radiological performance from early 1987 through early 1992. There were several serious radiological incidents involving unplanned exposure and extremity overexposure to workers. The radiation protection program was criticized by the NRC for (a) weak supervisory oversight, (b) poor adherence to procedures by the plant staff and (c) weak training. Some of the recurring radiation protection (RP) problems were:

- 1) Inadequate communication with Radiation Protection
- 2) Improper usage of HEPA ventilation
- 3) High Radiation Area key control
- 4) High Radiation Area boundary control
- 5) Unplanned spread of contamination
- 6) Lack of dosimetry in the plant Restricted Area

To address this situation, NYPA management instituted a Radiological Improvement Plan. The development of the Enhanced Radiation Worker (ERW) Training Program was one of many items contained in the plan.

Remarks/Potential for dose limitation: In Dec. 1991 a pilot session of the ERW program was conducted.

The instruction techniques include:

- lecture
- practical exercises in the simulated hot laboratory
- computer animation
- video taping of exercises
- facilitation of class critiques

The course contents include:

- basic radiation/contamination concepts
- radiation protection procedures and policies
- industry events

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- work planning
- ALARA
- contamination control

During 1992, 350 plant workers were trained and there were significant improvements in radiological awareness and performance. The SALP (systematic assessment of licensee performance) rating was increased from 3 (adequate) to 2 (good).

References: McCarty, J. and Hamblin, J., "Enhanced Radiation Worker Training at James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant," 1993 *Radiation Exposure Management Seminar*, Westinghouse, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1993.

Duration: from: 1991 to: 1993

Funding: N/A

Status: In progress

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