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UTILITY EXPERIENCE WITH MAJOR RADIATION MONITORING SYSTEM (RMS) UPGRADES

Keywords: RADIATION MONITORING; OPERATIONS; MAINTENANCE;
INSTRUMENTATION; CONTROL; PERFORMANCE

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Objectives: To provide an overview of utility experience and lessons learned in planning and implementing major RMS upgrade projects; to summarize and compare technical and costing approaches.

Comments: There has been a significant reduction in the number of radiation monitoring system (RMS) suppliers since 1986. In many cases, the original supplier of those system is no longer in business. In other situations, equipment is considered obsolete and the deterioration in original RMS performance in terms of operation and maintenance costs has led a number of utilities to embark on major upgrade projects. However, wide variations in actual and projected costs for different plants have increased the difficulty of developing an optimized approach to planning RMS. Researchers first interviewed 10 utilities in various stages of planning or implementing an RMS upgrade project. They next identified basic technical elements of an upgrade project and compared utility approaches. Finally, they compared actual cost data in terms of generic categories such as hardware and engineering

Potential for dose limitation: The report identifies the common elements in a number of RMS upgrade projects, includes a brief case study of each utility project evaluated, and cites key project issues on a utility-by-utility basis. The report explains the relative impact of different technical decisions on cost to allow more effective planning. Overall, the data in this report provide valuable reference points for utility engineers responsible for implementing RMS upgrades.

References: EPRI TR-104081, Final Report, December 1994.

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