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Title of Presentation: NRC Meteorologists Role in Support of the Headquarters Operations Center During an International Event

Name, Title: Kevin Quinlan, Physical Scientist, U.S. NRC

ABSTRACT

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake followed by a massive tsunami caused a varying degree of damage at four of the six units located at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, resulting in airborne radiological releases to the environment. As of March 28, the Japanese authorities rated the events at reactors 1, 2 and 3 as a level 5 (Accident With Wider Consequences) on the International Nuclear Event Scale, while the events at reactor 4 were placed at level 3 (Serious incident).

As part of the U.S. government response to the events in Japan, the U.S. NRC Headquarters Operations Center (HOC) was activated. The HOC includes a Protective Measures Team (PMT) which has the responsibility of performing dose assessment to support protective action decisions.

The NRC meteorologists worked in support of the HOC PMT providing up to date forecasts and collecting as much local meteorological observations as possible. The NRC meteorologists also worked to collect and process any radiation monitoring data that was being provided to the HOC PMT.

This presentation will provide an overview of the support that the NRC meteorologists provided in March 2011 during the Fukushima Dai-ichi event.