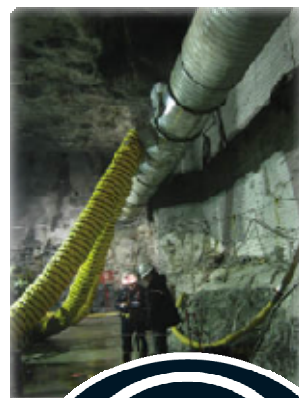
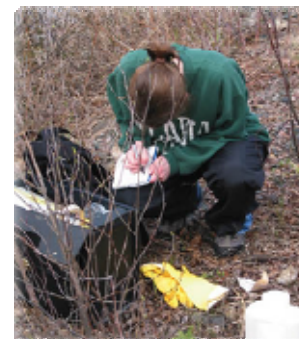




Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire



NRC Workshop: Groundwater-Related Policy Issues

Mike Rinker
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Director, Environmental Risk Assessment Division
October 4, 2010



nuclearsafety.gc.ca

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Established May 2000, under the
Nuclear Safety and Control Act

Replaced the AECB of the 1946
Atomic Energy Control Act

***Canada's Independent
Nuclear Regulator -
64 Years Of Experience***



Our Mission Is Clear

Protect the **health, safety** and **security** of persons and the **environment**; and respect Canada's **international commitments** on the peaceful use of nuclear energy

Canada's Nuclear Watchdog



Independent Commission

- Quasi-judicial administrative tribunal
- Commission members are independent
- Commission hearings are public and Webcast
- Supported by a Secretariat and independent legal services



Transparent Decision-Making

CNSC Regulates All Nuclear-related Facilities and Activities

- Uranium mines and mills
- Uranium fuel fabricators and processing
- Nuclear power plants
- Waste management facilities
- Nuclear substance processing
- Industrial and medical applications
- Nuclear research and education
- Export/import control



...From Cradle to Grave

The CNSC Communicates with the Public



Commission Proceedings



Public Presentations



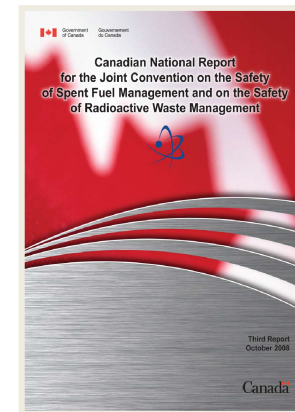
Community Events



Conferences and Tradeshows



Web Site



Public Reports

...in a variety of ways

Public Engagement - It isn't optional...

Section 9.(b) of the NSCA states that the Commission will

“...disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public concerning the activities of the Commission and the effects, on the environment and on the health and safety of persons...” from nuclear energy, nuclear substances, prescribed equipment, and prescribed information



...it's the law!



CNSC Web site: nuclearsafety.gc.ca

- Commission Tribunal agendas, decisions and transcripts
- Information on how the public can get involved and have their say
- Regulatory Framework documents
- Information about Environmental Assessments and new nuclear projects
- CNSC annual reports and publications
- CNSC technical papers, presentations and articles
- Activities in the nuclear sector and CNSC participation in public events
- Timely and factual nuclear-related information about:
 - News releases and information bulletins
 - Regulatory action
 - Industry safety performance reports
 - Fact sheets

An important vehicle to disseminate information





Licensee Public Information Programs

- Class I nuclear facilities must have ongoing Public Information Program (PIP)
- Regulatory Guide G-217, *Licensee Public Information Programs* outlines the program's elements
- Primary goal of G-217: *“ensure that environmental and health and safety issues that may arise as a result of the facility...are effectively communicated to the public, in a manner that complies with established regulations”*
- Assessed throughout the facility's lifecycle
- Included in CNSC staff recommendations that are presented to the Commission at licensing hearing
- CNSC staff may make recommendations for improvement to the licensee's PIP if it is found to be inadequate or incomplete



Low Risk - High Public Interest

- Events that are characteristic of Canada's nuclear industry
 - Facilities that use, process or manage tritium
 - Uranium exploration
- Events that are less predictable
 - Transport of Steam Generators



Public Information and Disclosure

- CNSC is in the process of formalizing requirements in new regulatory documents (RDs) on the reporting of events and public information
- As a licence condition, licensees will be required to have a public information program, including a public disclosure protocol, to communicate:
 - Routine and non-routine releases to the environment
 - Unplanned events
 - Environmental monitoring reports
 - Emergencies or situations where the public has an interest
- New requirements will apply to all Class I and II nuclear facilities and to uranium mines and mills



Early Notification Reports

- Required for several reasons, for example:
 - Unauthorized release of a nuclear or hazardous substance into the environment

resulting in

- Situations deemed to be of high significance with respect to the protection of health, safety and the environment



Early Notification Reports

- Reports require:
 - Description and cause of the event
 - What criteria triggered the need for the report
 - Effects the event has had, or may have, on the health and safety of people, the environment, national security or international obligations
 - Licensee's actions (progress and plans)
 - CNSC actions (progress and plans)
 - Next steps



What Have We Learned?

- Information for the public should be proactive, timely, in plain language and readily available
- To ensure the public is receiving factual information, it is important to rebut non-scientific statements
- We need to tailor communications to the target audience and engage early
- Developing relationships is a two-way street; it takes time and commitment

Information is a right, not a privilege



Canadian Approach to Coordination

- *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
 - Federal Coordination Regulations
 - Harmonization agreements with the Provinces
- *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*
 - MOU with the Province of Saskatchewan
 - Joint Regulatory Groups (JRG)

For More Information on CNSC...



Annual Report 2008 – 09

**Visit our Web site
nuclearsafety.gc.ca**