Session II: methodologies of costs of nuclear accidents
Considerations and hypothesis for a pertinent evaluation of nuclear accident costs

Nuclear accident cost assessment
ASN approach

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Nuclear accident cost assessment

For which goals?
1. Provide economic factors related to damages resulting in compensation?
2. Provide economic data for a benefit / risk assessment of the safety issues?
3. Contribute to the national debate (from political and societal points of views) on energy policy?
4. Define a methodology and tools for further academic studies?

French nuclear safety Authority (ASN) is mainly involved on topics 1 and 2 (referral - IRSN 2006)
Nuclear accident cost assessment

A controversial issue and a main challenge: how to define the adequate scope?

1. What costs should be taken into account?
   - Cost of the damages to the facility
   - Loss of profit due to the electricity production stoppage
   - Off-site damages
   - Indirect effects, considering economic and social factors in contaminated areas but also at national level
   - …

2. What assumptions should be taken into account?
   - Off-site consequences?
   - Duration and gravity of the accident?
   - Large-scale social behavior?

Objectives for ASN:

Promote debate involving concerned stakeholders

Definition of a global approach and shared methodology
Pluralist approaches : ASN experiences

- The CODIRPA : Policy elements for post-accident management in the event of a nuclear accident (2012)

- The Committee in charge of the National plan on Radioactive Wastes

- The Committee in charge of childhood leukemia around NPP (2011)

- The committee on Human, Social and Organizational Factor in the nuclear sector (following Fukushima accident)
CODIRPA framework: issues related to emergency grants and financial assistance

• What is the right definition for “financial compensation”?
  – Necessary distinction between compensation and financial assistance *(aimed to address most immediate needs of the affected population)*,
  – Need to comply with legal rules and procedures to estimate compensation for the damages undergone by the victims *(“nuclear civil liability” which makes the operator the sole and unique party liable for potential damages induced by nuclear activity)*,

• CODIRPA proposals:
  – From the exit of emergency phase: distribution of emergency grants and financial assistance
  – During the transition period:
    • continuation, where necessary, of the distribution of emergency grants,
    • setting up the emergency assistance system provided for under the “nuclear civil liability”
The ASN methodology of work

• Lessons learned from the first ASN attempt to tackle this issue:
  – complex issue requiring in the first place to set up a methodology of work
  – need to benefit from inputs and contributions from various stakeholders

• Programme of work:


  – 2nd step:
    • discussion on methodology and assumptions by a “pluralist group” (to be put in place),
    • identification of specific topics for which additional researches should be implemented (2013/2014)

  – 3rd step: CODIRPA approbation (2014)

  – During the whole process: promote the development of academic works related to these topics (articles in economic journals…)

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OECD/NEA Workshop – Approaches to estimation of the costs of nuclear accidents
ASN approach on

Nuclear Accident Cost Assessment:

- Strong need to tackle this controversial issue,
- Requirement of a pluralistic approach and a debate with various concerned stakeholders