

Stakeholder Involvement in Post-Accident Recovery

Experience from the NEA
Committee on Radiation Protection
and Public Health
(CRPPH)

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The CRPPH

Mission

- To assist member countries in the regulation and application of the system of radiation protection by identifying and addressing identified issues - conceptual, scientific, policy, operational and societal - in a timely, prospective fashion, and clarifying their implications

CRPPH Work on Stakeholder Involvement

Exploring the concept of stakeholder involvement

What is “stakeholder involvement”?



Approaches to achieving stakeholder involvement

How might it work in practice?



Taking action on stakeholder involvement

What has been our experience?

Definition of Stakeholders

- All individuals, groups or organisations interested in and/or impacted by a proposed activity or existing situation

Contributions of the CRPPH

- 1993: **CRPPH Workshop** *Radiation Protection on the Threshold of the 21st Century*
- 1994: **CRPPH Collective Opinion** *Radiation Protection Today and Tomorrow*
- 1998: **1st Villigen Workshop: Societal Aspects of Decision Making in Complex Radiological Situations**
- 2001: **2nd Villigen Workshop: Better Integration of Radiation Protection in Modern Society**
- 2003: **3rd Villigen Workshop: Stakeholder Participation in Decision Making Involving Radiation: Exploring Processes and Implications**
- 2006: **Stakeholders and Radiological Protection: Lessons from Chernobyl 20 Years After**
- 2009: **New strategies for radiological protection based on partnership with society**
- 2010: **Survey on Organisational Adaptation to Stakeholder Involvement in Post-nuclear Emergency Management**
- 2010: **The Contribution of the CRPPH in Bringing Stakeholder Involvement to the Radiation Protection Profession**

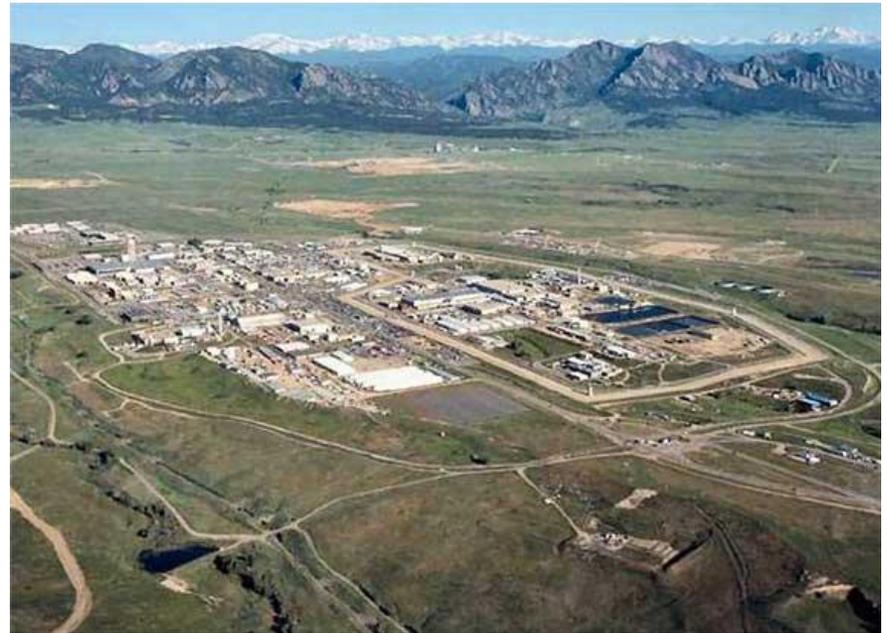
Objectives of Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement helps to:

- Incorporate public values into decisions
- Increase the substantive quality of decisions
- Resolve conflict among competing interests
- Build trust in institutions
- Educate and inform the public
- Identify and build acceptance for sustainable decisions

Example: Rocky Flats Cleanup

- The Rocky Flats site manufactured Pu weapons triggers in the US from 1956 to 1989
- Fire in 1969: operational releases contaminated surrounding area with Pu
- Public protests throughout the 1980s
- DOE established radionuclide soil action levels (RSALs) in 1996, causing more protests



Example: Rocky Flats Cleanup

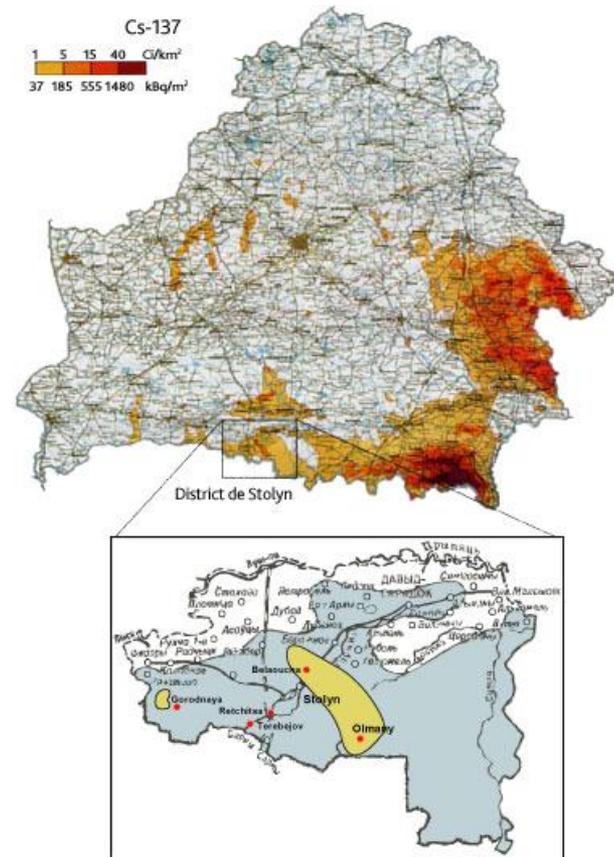
- Radionuclide Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel (RSALOP) formed in 1996 to monitor independent dose assessment study, and make recommendation as to cleanup levels. The process resulted in:
 - Establishment of mutual trust: open dialogue
 - Clarification of central tradeoff: cleanup level to be not too high, not too low
 - Contextualizing science: developed realistic, local exposure scenarios
 - Agreement on shared values: final RSALs recommended
 - Continued collaboration: group continued through site cleanup and release



Example: Rehabilitation after Chernobyl

From 1996 to 2002, interdisciplinary team of RP experts went to Olmany, in Stolyn district in Belarus, to assist local recovery efforts

- Stakeholder involvement: 6 working groups
 - radiological protection of children
 - management of the radiological quality of milk production
 - management of the radiological quality of meat production
 - education of children living in a contaminated environment
 - management of contaminated wastes
 - production of a video film by the youth of the village



Example: Rehabilitation after Chernobyl

- Bottom-up, 'organic' approach
- Adequately complex response for complex situations
- Sound science
- Openness to engagement at every stage
- Pluralistic validation and feedback
- Multidisciplinary approach



Example: Contaminated Reindeer in Norway

- The Chernobyl accident contaminated reindeer pastures in northern Finland, Sweden and Norway
- The Sami people in Norway were significantly affected



Example: Contaminated Reindeer in Norway

- The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority worked with the Sami to agree on approaches and criteria for acceptable continuation of reindeer production:
 - Reindeer monitoring programmes
 - Acceptable contamination levels in reindeer meat
 - Approaches to marketing reindeer meat in Norway



Some Practical Lessons and Experience

The CRPPH has learned valuable practical lessons from its studies of cases where stakeholders have been involved in resolving radiological protection issues

- When is Stakeholder Involvement useful?
- Who is (or should be) involved?
- Why is this different than our “normal” approach?
- How long do these processes last?
- How big is the process?
- What is included?
- Who is Responsible?
- When does it Work?
- When does it Not Work?
- Implications for Radiological Protection Decision Making?

The CRPPH would like to share this experience in detail

Conclusions

- The shift in societal expectations poses considerable challenges for the radiological protection community
 - Society is increasingly sceptical of complex technologies, and of those who are charged with operating and regulating them
- Stakeholder involvement should not represent a threat, but rather an opportunity to cement better relations between radiological protection experts and the wider society which they serve
- Involving stakeholders helps to reach decisions that are robust and sustainable, and enjoy wider acceptance