



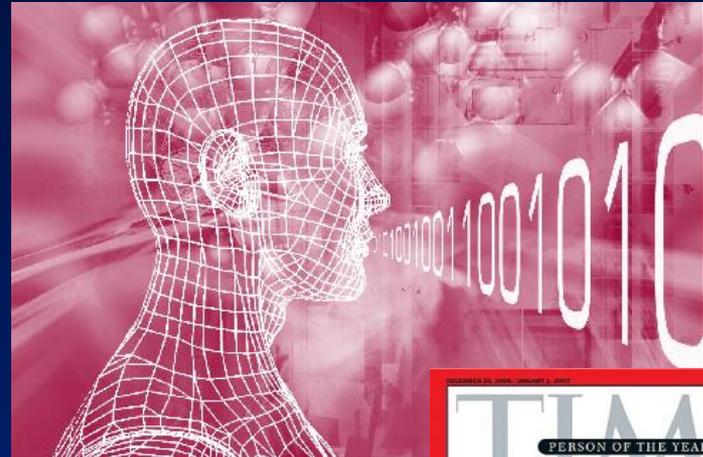
# Achieving Openness in the Information Age

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# Overview

- Introduction
- Openness in nuclear regulation
- Fuel cycle case study
- Openness challenges



## **Workshop on Fuel Cycle Safety: Past, Present and Future**

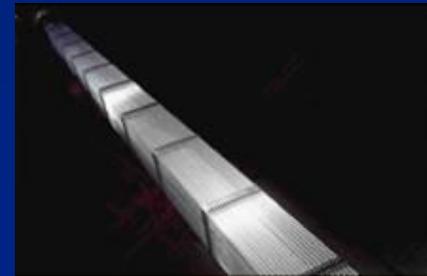
- Working Group on Fuel Cycle Safety
- Support by IAEA and Global Nuclear Fuel
- Purpose – exchange information on nuclear fuel cycle safety
- Question – How much information is enough? Too much?

## NRC Values Openness

- One of NRC's organizational excellence objectives
  - “NRC informs and involves, as appropriate, stakeholders in the regulatory process”
- Strategies
  - Provide accurate and timely information
  - Enhance awareness of NRC's independent role
  - Provide fair, timely, and meaningful involvement
  - Communicate in plain language
  - Conduct early communication on issues

## Application to Fuel Cycle Facilities

- Same openness objective applies
  - Nuclear power plants
  - Fuel cycle facilities
  - Nuclear waste storage and disposal
  - Radioactive material users



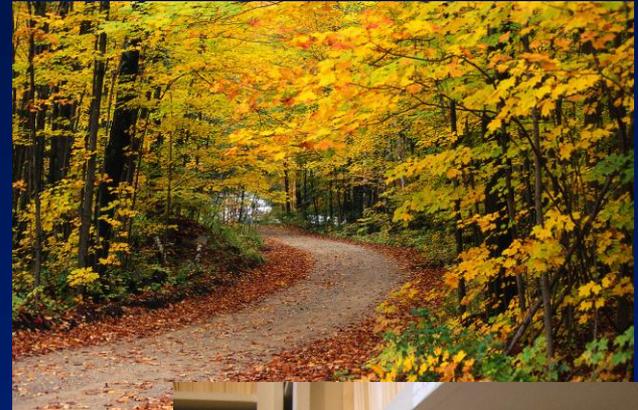
# Historical Context

- William Anders, First NRC Chairman
  - Public needs to have confidence
  - Confidence is earned by performance
  - Openness identified as the second principle
    - Nuclear regulation is the public's business
    - Regulate publicly and candidly
    - Inform the public and allow it to participate to "every extent permitted under law"
    - Exclude only national security and proprietary information
  - Most key issues are social and philosophical



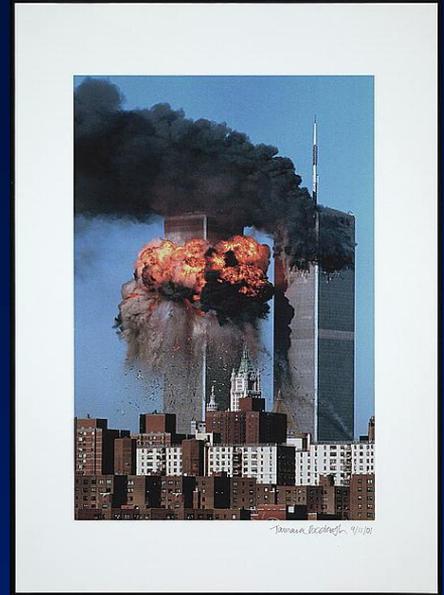
# Achieving Openness

- Public document rooms
- Information requests
- Computers and the Internet
- ADAMS
- Balances
  - Safety
  - Security



## Fuel Cycle Case Study

- Terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001
- NRC response
  - Shut down website in 2001 & 2004
  - Screen and remove information
- Compilation concerns about Category I fuel facilities
  - Remove access
  - Screen and release limited information



# Disclosure

- March 2006 event
  - Notification of authorities
  - INES report
- May 2007 Abnormal Occurrence Report
- Commission action
- Stakeholder response
- Revision of guidelines



# Enhanced Openness

- Application of guidelines
- Restoration of access to key documents
- Redaction and release of future documents
- Open meetings



## Are we achieving confidence?

- NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence
  - Waste management organizations recognize need to improve interactions
  - Technical excellence alone has not been enough for society to accept and uphold technically sound decisions
  - Stakeholders are demanding better information and more opportunities for meaningful participation
  - Quality of interactions matters as much as the accuracy of their substance
- How should these findings apply to Fuel Cycle Safety?

# Openness Challenges

- Sharing information without endangering safety or security
- Transferring knowledge within agencies
- Addressing rumors and stories
- Establishing authenticity in an exploding information environment

