Technologies to Prevent and Mitigate Severe Accidents

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Core Damage Prevention – FLEX and Hazard Recognition

- Understand the nature & likelihood of extreme events
 - Seismic & flooding hazard re-evaluations
 - Focus on preventing core damage
- Flexible strategies for maintaining core cooling, spent fuel cooling & containment function
 - Maximize capability of installed equipment
 - Supplement installed capability with portable equipment
 - Backup equipment from national response centers
- Research and development opportunities
 - Determine beyond design basis capability of installed equipment and possible enhancements



FLEX is Multi-Faceted





FLEX is a Phased Approach

Time Line (hours)		0 - 4		4 - 8		8 - 12		12 - 24		24-72		>72	
Installed Equipment		F	ha	se 1									
On-Site Portable Equipment							Ph	ase	2				
Off-Site Equipment											Pha	ase 3	3



FLEX is Defense in Depth





FLEX Approach is Site Specific for Electrical Power







FLEX Approach is Site Specific for Mechanical Connection





FLEX is Supported by Procedures & Training

Procedure Hierarchy



The purpose of FLEX is to prevent core damage. FLEX can still provide capability for accident mitigation if the core is damaged



Containment Integrity/Fission Product Confinement

- Strengthen functional capability of containment
 - Containment function is to confine radioactive material
 - Enhance capability of containment to retain its design function capability
 - Maintain pressure below design limits and temperature within acceptable limits to prevent gross leakage
 - Value of water addition confirmed for Mark I and II
- Research and development opportunities

 Evaluation of other containment designs continuing



Containment Protection & Release Reduction





Monitoring the Plant – See the Trends – Anticipate Next Steps

- FLEX maintains parameter monitoring capability
 - Lists critical instrumentation
 - Pre-plan alternatives to power instruments
 - Procedures for monitoring equipment without AC or DC power
 - Instrumentation needs overlap between core damage prevention and mitigation
- Research and development opportunities
 - Instrumentation to improve recognition of vessel breach signature; for example, thermocouples under vessel
 - Portable, remote instrumentation capability.
 - Portable remote receivers, low power requirements, no wiring through containment penetrations.



Suppress Radioactive Material Release & Transport

- If core damage prevention fails:
 - Place high priority on maintaining containment function
 - Use in containment confinement and filtering (wet containments) capability
 - Prolong containment holdup time to maximize fission product plate out & deposition
- Research and development opportunities:
 - Accident tolerant fuels
 - Forensic investigation of Fukushima will yield valuable insights
 - Core melt progression, molten debris cooling & spread behavior



Conclusions, Next Steps

- Important lessons have been learned regarding our capabilities to prevent and mitigate extreme events
- Significant safety enhancements have been made since the accident
- Our learning process can be furthered through R&D activities focused on
 - Understanding the nature and likelihood of extreme events
 - Sustaining our continuous learning process on severe accident mitigation
 - Supporting a coordinated forensic investigation of the damaged units at Fukushima

