



México's Initial Response to the Fukushima Accident

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Outline

1. Activation of the Emergency Organization

- Radiological safety
- Nuclear safety

2. Cooperation with other Government Agencies

3. Review of Laguna Verde's safety

4. Conclusions



Activation of the Emergency Organization

Immediately after the ENAC notification, the Secretary of Energy convened a meeting with the heads of the electric utility, the Nuclear Research Institute, and the Regulatory Commission, the later proceeded to activate its Nuclear Emergency Response Team, and its Director General was appointed as the official spokesperson on the accident

- Two working groups were established to deal with matters related to:

- Nuclear Safety
- Radiological Safety



Radiological Safety

1. Data collection from stations of the National Radiological Environmental Surveillance Network, in locations near the Mexican Pacific Coast
2. Continuous detection of radioactive mater in air, from fission products
3. Directives on actions to prevent imports of contaminated products (radiation limits and customs actions)
4. Measurement (by request) of contamination levels on travellers returning from Japan

Nuclear Safety

The IAEA accident simulation group requested CNSNS assistance for modeling Long Term SBO in BWR's.

1. CNSNS provided preliminary results to the IAEA emergency response team
2. Simulation results were presented by its SCDAP/RELAP partner ISS, in March 24 in Vienna
3. Those results provided the first insights into what might have happened in the Japanese reactors. Namely,
 - Extensive fuel melting was expected in Units 1-3
 - Fuel melting and its relocation into the Lower Plenum was expected to occur after a few hours



Review of Laguna Verde's safety

CNSNS requested Comision Federal de Electricidad to examine the status of its NPP in accordance with USNRC's recommendations and NEI's documents.

A visit to the plant, headed by the Secretary of Energy, was organized to assess the situation, to meet with the Governor of Veracruz, and other local authorities, and to inform the media about the actions taken by government.



Information and Coordination

Several Government Agencies, involved in the Response Committee for Radiological Emergencies, headed by the General Coordinator of the Department of the Interior (Secretaria de Gobernacion) were convened and relevant actions were decided and implemented.

CSNS is publishing a daily report in its Web site, comprising:

- Nuclear power plant current status
- Radiological safety updates
- Environmental radiation levels in México



Sources of information

Besides the information provided by the IAEA (IEC) to keep a better track of the accident evolution, the following information sources have been exploited:

- Japanese media
- Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency
- Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- Tokyo Electric Power
- Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization
- World Weather Organization
- World Health Organization
- WANO, NEI, etc



Conclusions

- Well trained and highly technical skilled national emergency response organizations are essential to provide sound answers to the public, government agencies and international organizations
- National infrastructures on radiological surveillance and personal dosimetry play a fundamental role to grant support in accordance with the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency