Emergency Planning (Preparedness) Within The Development Of A National Infrastructure For Nuclear Power

Thomas McKenna Incident and Emergency Centre Department of Nuclear Safety and Security



**IEC - Mission Statement Global Focal Point** for International Preparedness, **Communication and Response** for **Nuclear and Radiological Safety or Security Related Incidents, Emergencies, Threats or Events of Media Interest** AEA

#### IEC – Rational - Why are we needed

#### **TODAY'S WORLD:**

**Expansion** of use of nuclear power and use of radiation sources

 $\Rightarrow$  21<sup>st</sup> century threats





→ Treaty obligations



# IAEA emergency preparedness requirements and guidance

- Based on an examination of all past emergencies
- Address what should be in place for an adequate response
- Clearly reflected by the milestones



#### All severe NPP emergencies

Caused –or – made worse by operator actions:

- TMI
- Chernobyl
- These emergencies essentially stopped NPP development for 20 years
   Because it was assumed it could not happen

   severe – low probability events - not
   considered in training and development of
   onsite response actions.



#### Lack of local support over time

- Shoreham in 1984 given permission for low power tests but by the late 1980s local popular, political and business support collapsed (due to TMI & Chernobyl).
- In February 1983 local officials declared that the county could not be safely evacuated.
- Failure to agree on evacuation plan was the official reason for the plant never being operated.
- Billion \$ plant never operated



Emergency preparedness not just off-site Need integration of on- and off-site response. Includes:

- Actions being taken by the operators
  - Prevent a severe emergency e.g. EOPs
  - Reduce the consequences of an emergency
- Security response. (security response has interfered with the safety response)
- Off-site response
  - Local
  - National



On-site response should address severe very low probability events

- Plants can not operate unless severe events are low probability
- Failure to address contributed to TMI and Chernobyl



What is the basis for off-site preparedness?

- Based on consequence projection (threat assessment)
- What probability event should be considered?
- How is this demonstrated?
- How are advances in design and analysis reflected? For example size of the emergency ones



#### Sustainability: Who is going to pay?

Are the provisions in place to pay for emergency response arrangements needed for both on and off site over the long-term?
Is this part of license condition?



No clear designation of responsibilities

- Who is responsible for making off-site decisions promptly?
- Who coordinates the total national response (not the regulatory body)?
- Have all the national and local response organizations been included?
- £,€,¥, \$ involved who will get the money?
- Must decide early



## IEC is the IAEA focal point of EP & R and is available to assist

