

IRPA13

Stakeholder Engagement: The UK Experience

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Society for Radiological Protection

International Background

- IRPA11 Madrid 2004: issue to be addressed
- French, Spanish and UK IRPA Associate Societies collaborated - Workshops in:
 - Salamanca (2005), Montbeliard (2006) and Oxford (2007),
 - plus dialogue with IRPA and support from many countries.
- Draft to IRPA, revisions by Executive Council
- IRPA12 Buenos Aires 2008 formally adopted

The Challenge

IRPA Guiding Principles for Radiation Protection Professionals on Stakeholder Engagement.

- Associate Societies challenged to:
 - Promote adoption
 - “Road test” leading to embedding the practice
- Feed back at IRPA13
- SRP commended as “a useful framework to aid these activities” and commissioned this review

Context of UK Development

- Not mandatory requirements
 - Each country / organisation developing within
 - Profile and history of RP uses
 - Sector of use
 - Social context of transparency, fairness and sustainability
 - Strong academic base
- RP is not in isolation!

Political Context

- Reverse decline in public connecting with Government: turn out at elections.
- Getting buy-in to increasingly complex public policies
- Sustainability of decisions involving difficult trade-offs

Rapid growth in scope of stakeholder engagement by Government

Legal / Constitutional

- Extent of Planning Inquiries
- Extent of Public Inquiries
 - Following accidents or policy failure
- Legislation
 - Freedom of Information Act 2004
 - Human Rights legislation
 - Aarhus Convention etc.
 - Impact of judicial reviews

Rise in Public expectations on the scope and scale of information available and involvement

Awareness & Technology Advancements

- Less deferential to specialists: more challenging
- More environmentally aware
- Impact of the internet and social networking
 - Accessibility of information
 - Networking to produce cohesive action

Governments, Agencies and organisations
increasingly geared to
transacting affairs electronically

Case Studies

BNFL Stakeholder Dialogue

- 1980s/1990s image, perceptions and acceptability
- 1998 started 8y project on Stakeholder Dialogue
 - Working through a facilitator with
 - Local communities, unions, regulators, government and several NGOs



- Framework for dialogue: started with small Working groups
- Priorities agreed: start with the simpler issues to build trust

Some Outcomes

- Value of the process, facilitator and clarity on decision making
- Many areas of agreement; but acceptable to disagree if reasons identified – Value sets
- Keep parent organisations in the loop
- Demonstrate benefits but keep realistic level of expectations
- Greater mutual respect
- Joint presentations to Ministers

West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group (WCSSG)

- Sellafield, Windscale, Calder Hall & LLWR
- Long history focused on Local Communities
- Open forums
 - On-Site Emergency Plan and Exercises
 - Cumbria CC Off Site plan and exercises
 - Off- site Multi-Agency Exercises
 - Arrangements to warn and Inform the public



Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Groups

- Equivalents to WCSSG at all Nuclear sites
- Quarterly meetings hosted by Licensee: open to all
- Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) produces report for these, presented by Site Inspector.
 - Available on website
- ONR also involved in Stakeholder Engagement
 - Locally and national level, involvement with NGOs
 - National Forum for Stakeholder Group Chairs
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
 - Senior post dedicated to Stakeholder Engagement
 - Runs annual Stakeholder Events



Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)

- Established 2003 to provide independent scrutiny and advice to Government
- “...will undertake its work in an open and consultative manner. It will engage with Stakeholders and it will publish advice (and underpinning evidence) in a way that is meaningful to the non-expert”
- Similar processes to BNFL example

CoRWM

Process included

- Discussion groups
- Citizens Panels
- Schools project
- Discussion guide (self-selectors)
- National Stakeholder forum
- Nuclear site Round Tables
- Open and bilateral meeting with stakeholder organisations
- Consultation Documents



More than 5000 people took part

Recommendations of report accepted by Government

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

HPA Chilton (formerly NRPB)

Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE)

HPA covers infectious diseases, dangerous pathogens, chemicals and radiation



- Typical of Government organisations
- Range of publications from highly technical documents through public information to policy and advisory documents
- Policy on Consultation: decision on need for, integral element
- Documents, responses and how dealt with on website

Farming and Food Countermeasures

- UK Agriculture and Food Countermeasures Working Group (AFCWG)
- Early recognition of need to involve stakeholders in food production and distribution in developing acceptable countermeasure strategies.
- Extended through Europe in FARMING network

UK Food Standards Agency (FSA)

- Consultation process in progress on removing post-Chernobyl sheep controls



Decommissioning of Particle Accelerator

- Large activated components left in situ at hospital and bricked-up –left for decades
- Many significant engineering problems to remove in limited space and keep hospital operational
- 30 contractors and many hospital stakeholders
- Project management, “co-operation at work” – could have been an ALARA study.

New Nuclear Build

- Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Environment Agency (EA)
 - Covering design, site and organisation
 - Stakeholder engagement a major element
 - “presumption of openness”
 - Meetings, websites etc.
 - Demonstrating independence from policy makers and industry

UK Engagement with Europe

- Recognised that cultural differences affect decision making
- NEA Villegan Workshop series 1998-2004
- Development of EC TRUSTNET programme
- Case studies helped develop thinking on methodology and framework to aid decision makers
- Framework established foundations for Guiding Principles

Links with ALARA and RP Safety Culture

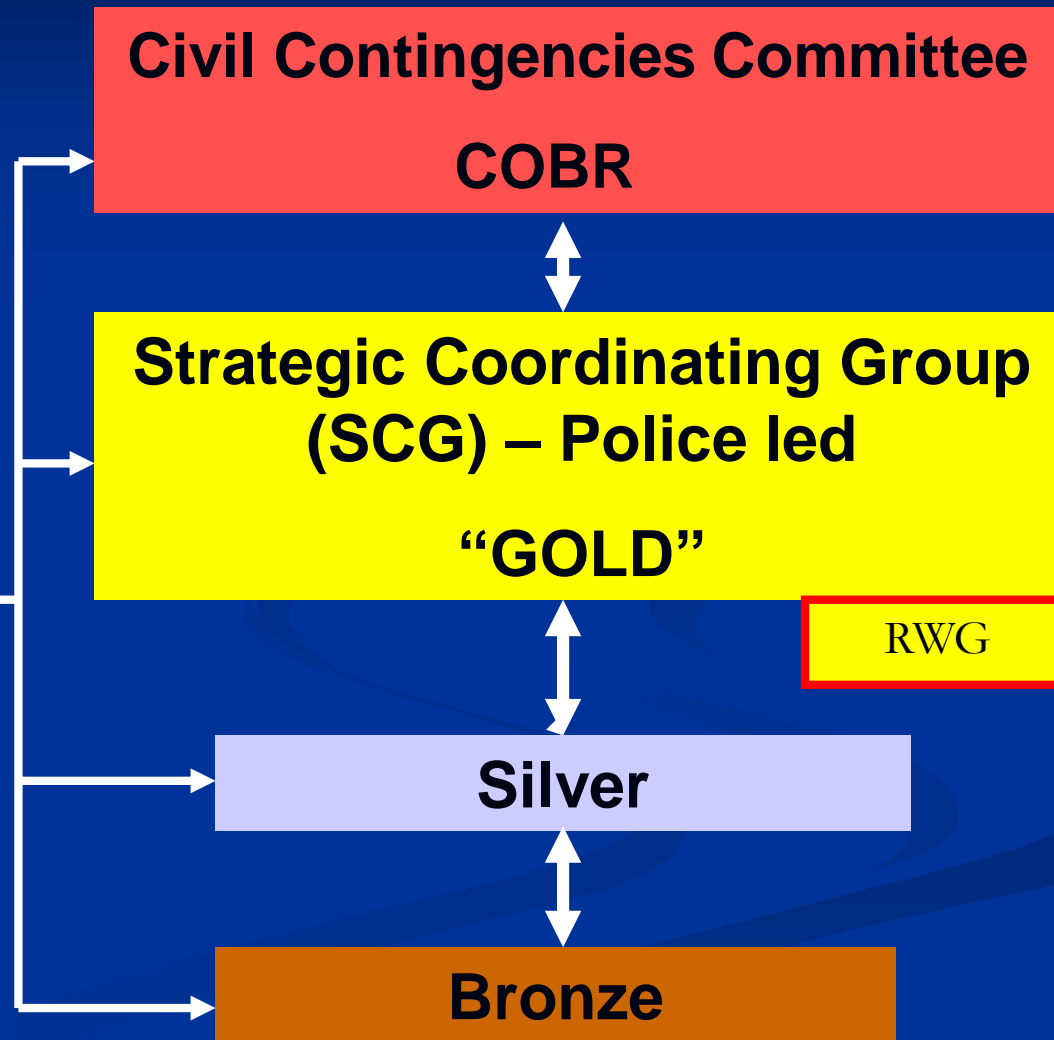
- Stakeholder Engagement a way of taking “social factors into account”, as required within ALARA
- Tendency to focus on high profile issues, but Stakeholder Engagement also a feature of good management at the operational level
- “ALARA Culture” and “ALARA commitment” has been well developed.
- Easy to recognise approaches to implementing ALARA and Stakeholder Engagement within the developing IRPA draft principles on RP Safety Culture.

UK Emergency Framework

Preparedness

- **Civil Contingencies Act, 2004**
- **Regional and Local Resilience Fora**
- **Category 1 & 2 Responders**
- **Exercise programmes**

Response



Response to Polonium Poisoning

- The exposed, those affected or concerned, and the public are Stakeholders. As are the responders.
- Significant effort required to address this and maintain trust.



Conclusions

- Stakeholder engagement in the UK is well established in larger organisations, particularly in the nuclear sector or ones associated with Government.
- Room to improve by learning from experience, particularly in smaller organisations
- More work needed on integrating principles at the working level
- Vigilance needed to ensure recession does not lead to false economies in Stakeholder Engagement