



# Generating Quality

This event held at EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd 's (NGL) offices in Barnwood, Gloucestershire focussed on quality developments in nuclear electricity generation

**Date:** 25 June 2012

The event, held in EDF Energy Nuclear Generation (NGL) Conference Centre at Barnwood, was opened by Mark Gorry, NGL's Safety and Technical Director who delivered a safety message and opening remarks which emphasised the NGL mantra, "Nuclear safety is our overriding priority" which is engraved on rock plinths at the entrances to their sites.

NGL has recently secured fleet-wide certification for their headquarters and 8 nuclear power stations to a clutch of standards which includes the PAS 55 -1 asset management specification. Ruma Deb Head of Quality for NGL explained how this was achieved. The keys to success were an empowered and mobile project team with the motto "Communication, communication, communication".

Lionel Westall of LRQA gave an overview of current assessment issues (from within industry in general, not specifically nuclear) and future developments in a thought provoking session. Lionel highlighted the quality journey so far; new standards on the horizon and common issues LRQA come across such as system implementation, policy deployment and organisational culture.

Nuclear safety, from the writing of a safety case to the fulfilment of a maintenance schedule is all about quality explained Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quality Assurance Specialist Inspector, David Morgan. David gave an overview of the regulatory requirements, emphasised the importance of leadership and explained that Nuclear Site Licence Condition 17 had changed and an associated ONR technical assessment guide will be issued soon.

Peter Marshall Fleet Outage Manager, NGL, has many reactor outages over many years under his belt and is now the Process Owner for outage management across the Nuclear Generation fleet. Including the cost of lost generation, a reactor outage costs ~£1m a day so Peter explained that ensuring that everything proceeds smoothly is all about "Preparation, preparation, preparation" with the planning for a shutdown kicking off 24 months beforehand. Shutdown safety, Defence in Depth and an effective audit programme are key aspects of successful outage management.

The common origins of the Magnox and AGR reactor fleets in the nationalised CEGB and the challenge of understanding what we mean by "quality" when the product (electricity) is always perfect were explored by Richard Connett of Magnox Ltd. The understanding that quality was all about maintenance of Nuclear Safety captured in the Management Control Procedures (MCPs) came later and was highlighted by the Chernobyl disaster and subsequent response



which included the export to Eastern Europe of the MCP approach. The challenge of moving to process based management systems, required by the IAEA Safety Standard GS-R-3 is on-going.

The challenge of managing the nuclear supply chain is a topic which is no stranger to NucSIG events so it was very pleasing to hear Jon Alcock the Supply Chain Manager for NGL and Jon Halladay, UK Nuclear Director for the Weir Group describing the collaborative improvement programme, known as Step up to Quality, between NGL and its key partners, which has the slogan "Proud to get it Right First Time". The programme has resulted in a reduction of significant quality issues by 60%.

Geoff Edmondson NucSIG Chairman briefly described the work of NucSIG, invited non-members to join. Geoff thanked EDF Energy Nuclear Generation for their excellent arrangements and hospitality for the day. Many thanks are due to the presenters and to Graham Watson for co-ordinating the event which was enjoyed by over 70 NucSIG members and NGL staff.

