

MANAGEMENT

The overall management is jointly carried out by IAEA, OECD/NEA and WANO. Proposals for improvements of the system are submitted for approval to the annual Steering Committee meeting of the three co-sponsors. During their biennial meeting, the INES National Officers may propose and discuss improvements to the INES information service. The Department of Nuclear Safety of the IAEA is responsible for the operation of NEWS.

USE

- To facilitate the use of NEWS, an on-line User's Manual is available to experts having write access;
- For other registered participants, media and the general public, the use of NEWS is facilitated by a simple and intuitive design of the Web pages;
- It is not appropriate to use the information made available to compare safety performance between countries. Each country has different arrangements for reporting minor events (level 0 and 1) to the public and to the IAEA Information Service. For events at level 2 or above, the statistically small number of such events, which also varies from year to year, makes it difficult to provide meaningful international comparison.

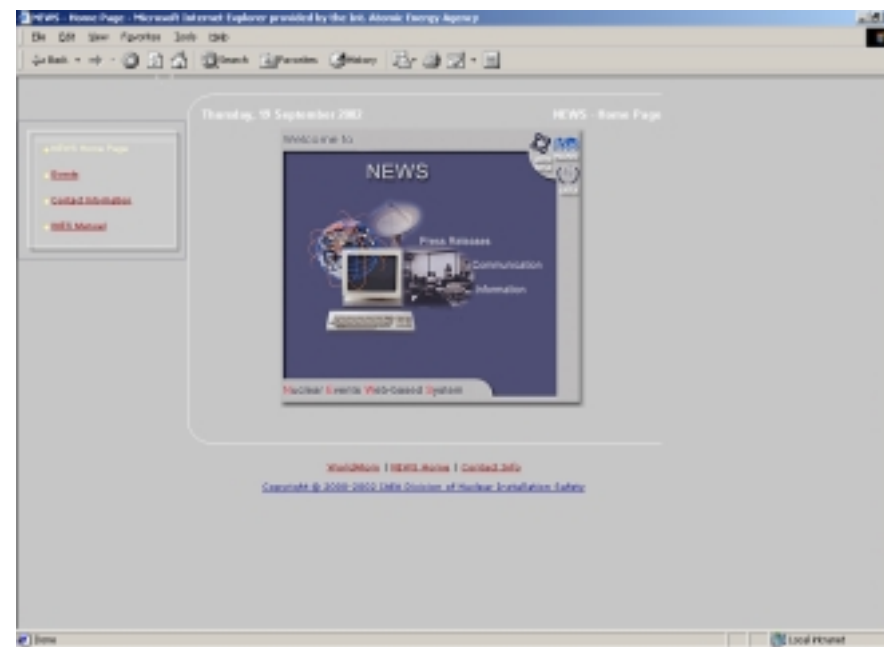
CONTACT

For further information contact:

- The INES National Officers
- IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety
 - NEA/CNRA Members
 - WANO Regional Directors

THE NUCLEAR EVENTS WEB-BASED SYSTEM (NEWS)

www-news.iaea.org/news/



International Atomic Energy Agency



Nuclear Energy Agency of the
OECD



World Association of Nuclear
Operators



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OBJECTIVES

The purpose of NEWS is to provide fast, flexible and authoritative information on the occurrence of nuclear events that are of interest to the international community.

NEWS has been established to cover all significant events in nuclear power plants, research reactors, nuclear fuel cycle facilities and occurrences involving radiation sources or the transport of radioactive material.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) is a means for promptly communicating to the public in consistent terms the safety significance of events reported. By putting events into proper perspective, it can facilitate common understanding among the nuclear community, the media and the public.

The INES National Officers are committed to communicate as quickly as possible official information on the consequences of an event to all the participating countries through the IAEA INES Information Service. The criteria for identifying which events should be communicated are:

- Events rated at Level 2 and above,
- Events attracting international public interest.

For rapid information exchange on these nuclear events, NEWS provides event descriptions, ratings according to the International Nuclear Event Scale and press releases (in the national language and in English).

A registered participant receives a user identification and password, and is automatically notified by e-mail when a new event, press release, or rating is added to the NEWS database.

PARTICIPATION

- About 60 INES National Officers are registered with permission to send event information for their country (event descriptions, event ratings according to INES and press releases) and to view all information. The members of NEA and IAEA Safety Committees and the WANO Regional Directors are also registered in this class;
- Senior management experts from each utility/nuclear facility are nominated by WANO or by the INES National Officer of that country. These experts are entitled to send event information for their facilities (event descriptions and press releases) and to view all information;
- Experts from regulatory bodies, operating organizations, technical support organizations, are nominated by INES National Officers, IAEA Safety Committees, NEA/CNRA members or WANO Regional Directors to view all information;
- National and international media can view the INES information (event descriptions, INES ratings and press releases), and may request to be registered, so as to be notified by e-mail of any new incoming INES information;
- The general public has free access through the IAEA Website NUSAFE to the INES information (event descriptions, INES ratings and press releases) without registration.

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

NEWS was developed in early 2001 and initially made available for a one-year trial period. Since March 2002 NEWS is used to exchange INES related information. The information shared in NEWS for the last six months is now also made available to the general public and the media.