Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA)

What is it and what is the value added?

Dr. B. John Garrick

Meeting with the West Valley Citizen Task Force October 28, 2009

Our Meaning of Risk

QRA is intended to answer the question "what is the risk of an event," which implies answering three questions about the event

- What can go wrong?
- How likely is it to go wrong?
- What are the consequences?

Form of the Results

QRA results generally take the form of an event frequency and the confidence in that frequency

3

Context of Risk Results

A QRA does not tell you when an event will occur, but it will tell you with uncertainty how often it might occur, thus providing insights on the "when" question

Triplet Framework

Scenarios, likelihoods, and consequences of events is the cornerstone of a QRA

5

Basis for Triplet

- Scenarios: Based on an understanding of the system or facility
- Likelihoods: Based on the evidence supporting the scenarios
- Consequences: Based on the endpoints of the scenarios

Value Added

- Exposure and quantification of threats and consequences
- Roadmap for safe operation of the facility
- Greatly enhanced basis for making the right decision for managing the risk