

RA Network a personal view

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Background

- Comprehensive set of meeting reports (Melbourne, Golden, Pau) available from IEAGHG
- Very broad range of topics and conclusions
- A personal view of some recurring themes
- ...

Process

- Considerable attention paid to the process of risk assessment
 - Systematic
 - Auditable
 - Standards-based
 - Etc
- Much interesting theoretical development
- ...very little by way of data to test these methodologies

Audience for RA is...?

- Regulators?
 - won't permit projects that have risks (quote!)
- The Public
 - probably not listening to technical risk information, but building trust is essential
- The project proponents
 - intensely interested in risk assessment
 - especially quantitative RA (bounds liability)
 - RAs may thus be confidential

Risks

- Network has not dealt systematically with risks, more interested in “emerging risks”
 - Public perception
 - Induced seismicity
 - Microbiological interactions
 - Groundwater
 - Broader environmental impacts
- No dramatic new ideas or techniques have emerged - difficult areas to manage/quantify

Some Highlights

- Explicit inclusion of “publically perceived assets” in RA, an example of a clear recognition that RA has to engage with real public concerns
- Comprehensive set of toolboxes for RA now available plus an understanding of the need for inter-comparability
- A rigorous and defensible engineering approach to RA is accepted by all practitioners and the processes are well-defined and documented