

News briefs

First topical peer review on managing the ageing of nuclear installations

The European Commission welcomed the publication by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) of the report¹ and country findings² of the first topical peer review (TPR) under the 2014 Amended Safety Directive.³ The Commission, whose duty is to monitor the implementation of the 2014 Amended Safety Directive, initiated the exercise in close co-operation with ENSREG, following and supporting it all the way. Such a review will hereafter take place every six years, as required by the Directive. In total, 19 countries (16 European Union countries, plus Norway, Ukraine and Switzerland) participated in the peer review. The added value of the exercise is that it is based on comprehensive factual expertise built up by the regulators.

The review highlights that ageing management programmes, based on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety standards and Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) reference levels, are in place for all nuclear power plants. While the review did not identify any major deficiencies in European approaches to regulate and implement ageing management programmes for nuclear power plants, it highlighted wide differences in national approaches. The report lists as many as 19 areas in which each country should reach an “expected level of performance” defined in the report to ensure a consistent and acceptable management of ageing throughout Europe. Ageing management programmes for research reactors, on the other hand, are neither regulated nor implemented systematically and comprehensively and therefore require further attention from both regulators and licensees.

The Commission calls on national authorities to develop action plans, as stipulated by the 2014 Amended Safety Directive, to ensure the timely implementation of all measures, and the Commission expresses its willingness to support and participate in the review of their implementation. These plans should address the results of the self-assessments and respond to the country specific findings. According to the decision taken by ENSREG on 4 October 2018, these national action plans should be published in September 2019 and will be analysed by ENSREG. The Commission will continue to follow and support the process.

2019 Fourth International Workshop on the Indemnification of Damage in the Event of a Nuclear Accident

After two successful workshops on the Indemnification of Damage in the Event of a Nuclear Accident organised in France in November 2001 and in the Slovak Republic in

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1. ENSREG (2018), *1st Topical Peer Review “Ageing Management”*, available at: www.ensreg.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/hlg_p2018-37_160_1st_topical_peer_review_report_2.pdf.
 2. ENSREG (2018), *1st Topical Peer Review “Ageing Management” Country specific findings*, available at: www.ensreg.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/hlg_p2018-37_161_1st_tpr_country_findings.pdf.
 3. Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014 amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations, *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ) L 219 (25 July 2014) (2014 Amended Safety Directive).

May 2005, the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) organised the 3rd International Workshop on the Indemnification of Damage in the Event of a Nuclear Accident in co-operation with the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic in October 2017. This workshop assessed the practical implementation of currently applicable international nuclear liability conventions in conjunction with, among others, non-convention states' regimes, assuming all modernised international instruments have come into force. Over 170 participants from 33 NEA member and non-member countries attended the workshop. The programme and discussions followed a specific scenario (a nuclear incident occurring at a nuclear installation which would cause transboundary damage) and the sessions were prepared based on responses to a tailored questionnaire gathered by the NEA from 27 NEA member and non-member countries. For more information about the previous workshops, as well as the associated publications, please see: www.oecd-nea.org/law/nuclear-liability-pubs-workshops-symposia.html.

The 4th International Workshop on the Indemnification of Damage in the Event of a Nuclear Accident will be held from 8-10 October 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal. This workshop will be a unique opportunity to continue exploring the practical application of the international nuclear liability instruments and the potential consequences, including with regard to non-convention states, of a nuclear incident occurring at a nuclear installation. It will address, in much more detail, topics identified by the workshop participants for further discussion, for example the determination of the nuclear damage to be compensated and transboundary claims handling.

Second NEA International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)

In 2018, the NEA created the International Radiological Protection School (IRPS), in co-operation with the Centre for Radiation Protection Research (CRPR) of Stockholm University and with the support of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM). The first IRPS session took place from 20 to 24 August 2018 at Stockholm University. It was attended by 41 participants from 24 countries, selected on the basis of their education, experience and potential as future radiological protection (RP) leaders.

The next session of the IRPS will take place from 18 to 22 August 2019 at Stockholm University. The five-day training provides mid-career RP experts with an understanding of the “spirit” of the RP system. International experts will present the nuances, history and between-the-lines meaning of international guidance and working experience, which will allow tomorrow's RP leaders to appropriately apply the RP system to address current and future radiological circumstances.