Convention on Nuclear Safety: The 7th Review Meeting

Ramzi Jammal
President, 7th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety
Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) Plenary Meeting
Vienna, Austria
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Convention on Nuclear Safety

Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) Plenary Meeting

• Adopted in Vienna on June 17, 1994

• Aim of the Convention is to legally commit participating States operating nuclear power plants to maintain a high level of safety

• Contracting Parties as of April 2016: 78
Convention Objectives

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• Achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international co-operation including, where appropriate, safety-related technical co-operation

• Establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards in order to protect individuals, society and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation

• Prevent accidents with radiological consequences and mitigate consequences should they occur
7th Review Meeting Logistics

Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) Plenary Meeting

• March 27–April 7, 2017, Vienna, Austria
• President: Mr. Ramzi Jammal, Canada
• Vice-Presidents:
  • Mr. Georg Schwarz, Switzerland
  • Mr. Geoffrey Emi-Reynolds, Ghana
• Country group officers represent 22 different countries
• Officers turnover meeting and officers training took place March 1–3, 2016
As President of the 7th Review Meeting, I am committed to:

• supporting strong review processes that achieve tangible improvements in nuclear safety

• assisting countries with writing national reports by providing training or assistance as requested and by encouraging the use of a graded approach to report writing

• following up at the appropriate national level with Contracting Parties who do not meet their CNS obligations and who do not fully participate in the CNS process
President’s Objectives for the 7th Review Meeting

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- Successful peer reviews for all Contracting Parties
- Meaningful, focused discussions on nuclear safety
- Highest attendance, participation and meeting of obligations under the CNS by Contracting Parties
- Full transparency of the CNS process (while bearing in mind the provisions of article 27)
- Highlighting deficiencies and strengths in national programs
President’s Objectives for the 7th Review Meeting (2)

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• As outlined in my letter of February 11, 2016:
  • incorporating self-assessment results against observations and lesson learned outlined in the IAEA Director General’s Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident
  • Reporting on actions taken to address the principles outlined in the *Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety*
Diplomatic Meetings

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- Bangladesh
- Jordan
- Saudi Arabia
- Pakistan

- Vietnam
- Kazakhstan
- Iran
The assignment of a good practice is sometimes viewed by Contracting Parties as a “trophy”.

This competitive culture is taking the focus away from the enhancement of nuclear safety.

Role of the country group chairs will be similar to an Executive Committee:

- Proposed good practices will be discussed every morning by the General Committee.
- Definition has not changed; however, CPs look to receive some recognition.
• Contracting Parties spend a significant amount of resources in producing their national report

• Need to improve the feedback mechanisms for Contracting Parties with appropriate messaging for them to bring back to their governments
  • recognition by the CNS of the national efforts made to enhance nuclear safety in the form of a category: “Nuclear Safety Achievements”
  • notable improvements made from previous national reports

• Templates under articles 17 and 18 introduce standardization and consistency in the preparation of national reports
Challenges Around Nuclear Safety

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- Recognition that safety is the first step in the acquisition of nuclear capacity
- Political acceptance that safety is as important as security and safeguards
  - heads of state do not meet to discuss nuclear safety
- Heads of state have the perception that the IAEA is the International watchdog for safety, however:
  - cases of non-compliance in the area of safeguards can be reported by the Board of Governors to the UN Security Council, while instances of security non-compliance follow the path of UNSCR 1540
  - no formal mechanism currently exists to address nuclear safety deficiencies at the international level until an accident occurs
Effective international regulatory oversight of nuclear safety is a must

- Who is monitoring the capacity of embarking countries?
- Who is ensuring that safety is not being compromised in the name of cost reductions?

How to deal with Contracting Parties that do not have nuclear power plants but do have research reactors
Upcoming CNS Milestones

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2016

Milestones

• Establishment of the Officers’ Preparation Working Group (including a project plan) - March 31, 2016
  • working group meetings - TBD (likely April and June 2016)
• Appointment of a Special Rapporteur for the peer review of the Vienna Declaration - March 31, 2016
Upcoming CNS Milestones (2)

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- Issuance of survey to all Contracting Parties regarding the CNS peer review process - early April 2016
- Deadline to submit survey - May 31, 2016
- Deadline for national report submission - August 15, 2016
- Officers’ meeting - October 2016
- Deadline for submission of questions - November 28, 2016
Upcoming CNS Milestones (3)

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- Additional officers’ meetings
  - February 8–9, 2017
- Deadline for submission of answers - February 20, 2017
- 7th Review Meeting
  - March 27–April 7, 2017
Questions or Concerns?

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THANK YOU!