WENRA

Improvement of nuclear safety through self-commitment of regulators

Side event
6th Review Meeting to the Convention on Nuclear Safety
Vienna, 1 April 2014
Hans Wanner, WENRA Chairman
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Side event
6th Convention on Nuclear Safety
Vienna, 1 April 2013

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• Association of the Heads of nuclear regulatory authorities of the EU countries with NPP and Switzerland

• Original Terms of Reference signed on 4 February 1999
  • Revised on 14 March 2003
  • Revised on 26 March 2010

• European centre of competence for nuclear safety

www.wenra.org
01 WENRA
Policy Statements

• Commitment to continuous improvement of nuclear safety in our countries
• Develop a common, harmonized approach to nuclear safety
• Develop common safety reference levels based on IAEA standards and good practices in our countries
• Regular revision undertaken when new knowledge and experience are available
01 WENRA
Basic facts

- 17 Members
- 9 Observers
- 137 NPP in operation
01 WENRA
Working Groups

RHWG  Reactor Harmonisation Working Group
WGWD  Working Group on Waste and Decommissioning

Ad-hoc Working Groups
02 RHWG
RHWG activities

• Complete set of 284 Reactor Safety Reference Levels (SRL) published in 2006

• Revised set of 295 SRL based on stakeholder comments published in 2008
  – Implementation >80% in 14 countries, 100% in 8 countries

• Revision of SRL based on lessons from Fukushima started in 2012
WENRA Actions after Fukushima
WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Review of SRL and providing guidance

New Ad-hoc Working Groups (post Fukushima) in 2012

- Mutual assistance → Mandate fulfilled in 2013
- Periodic safety review → Mandate fulfilled in 2013
- Containment integrity
- Accident management
- Natural hazards

Review of SRL completed in 2014
03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Mutual Assistance

**Actions taken:**

- Creation of Emergency Database DEEPER (new ad-hoc WG)
  - European reactor designs
  - SAM features
- Exchange and coordination of technical and radiological assessments → HERCA
- Several other recommendations for cooperation and exchange of expertise
WENRA Position Paper
March 2013
see www.wenra.org
03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Review and Revision of SRL

• Review took into account explicitly:
  ➢ safety culture
  ➢ safety of spent fuel pools
  ➢ sites with multiple reactors
  ➢ conditions at the site after an accident
  ➢ need for independent and diverse heat removal means
  ➢ beyond design basis conditions

• A new “issue” dedicated to natural hazards has been established
## 03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima

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03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Review and Revision of SRL

New Guidance Documents (to be published with new SRL set):

• New guidance document on natural hazards
  – Natural hazard types include earthquake, flooding, extreme values of meteorological phenomena, rare meteorological phenomena, biological and geological phenomena, forest fire

• New guidance document on design extension
  – Design extension conditions include initiating events induced by natural hazards exceeding the design basis, prolonged SBO, loss of UHS, total loss of feed water, loss of active fuel pool cooling...
03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Review and Revision of SRL

Natural Hazards
Natural hazards shall be considered an integral part of the safety demonstration of the plant (including spent fuel storage). Threats from natural hazards shall be removed or minimized as far as reasonably practicable for all operational plant states. To achieve this, assessments of the design basis and design extension conditions shall be performed to identify needs and opportunities for improvement.

Design Extension of existing Reactors
As part of the defense in depth, analysis of Design Extension Conditions (DEC) shall be undertaken with the objective of improvement of the safety of the NPP by identifying ways of enhancing the plant’s capability to withstand more challenging events or conditions than those considered in the design basis, minimizing radioactive releases harmful to the public and the environment as far as reasonably practicable, and ensuring sufficient margins to “cliff-edge effects”.

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03 WENRA Actions after Fukushima
Review and Revision of SRL

**Stakeholder consultation:**

- SRL published on WENRA web-page [www.wenra.org](http://www.wenra.org) for comments of stakeholders (Dec 2013 to Feb 2014)
- All important European stakeholders have been informed
- 142 comments from 12 parties
- Final approval expected in 2014
WENRA Recommendation of Aug 2013
2-step verification of materials quality and structural integrity of reactor pressure vessels:

1. Comprehensive review of RPV manufacturing and inspection records
2. Examination of the base material of the vessels

www.wenra.org
Summary
04 Summary

• Actions taken by WENRA due to lessons from Fukushima
  – Mutual assistance of regulators
  – Position paper on Periodic Safety Reviews (Mar 2013)
  – Review and revision of SRL with focus on containment integrity, accident management and natural hazards → 2014
  – New guidance documents on natural hazards and design extensions

• WENRA recommendation in connection with flaw indications in Belgian reactors (Aug 2013)

• Overall review of SRL to be started in 2014, including a focus on requirements for new builds
Thank you.

WENRA
Hans Wanner  Tel  +41 56 460 85 68
Industriestrasse 19  Fax  +41 56 460 84 99
5200 Brugg  Hans.Wanner@ensi.ch
Switzerland  www.wenra.org