

Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

Working Session 2 – Keynote address on

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

*André-Claude LACOSTE on behalf of the
Chairperson of the Commission on Safety Standards*



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **The Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) is a standing body of senior government officials holding national responsibilities for establishing standards and other regulatory documents relevant to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety.**
- **The CSS has a special overview role with regard to the Agency's safety standards and provides advice to the Director General on the overall programme on regulatory aspects of safety.**
- **Former Chair 2005-2011 André-Claude Lacoste**
- **Current Chair as of January 2012: Dana Drábová**

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety GOV/2011/59-GC(55)/14 requests**
 - The Commission on Safety Standards and the IAEA Secretariat to review, and revise as necessary using the existing process in a more efficient manner, the relevant IAEA Safety Standards in a prioritized sequence.
- **Systematic review plan established mid 2011**
 - Scope, prioritization, topical approach and process for the review
- **Priority given to the IAEA Safety Requirements that are applicable to nuclear power plants and to the storage of spent nuclear fuel**

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **Progress report summarizing the first results submitted to the Safety Standards Committees in December 2011**
- **Analysis based on the first reports available**
 - Report from the Government of Japan to the June Ministerial Conference
 - Report from the Government of Japan to the September 2011 IAEA General Conference
 - IAEA Fact finding mission
 - Letter from INSAG

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **First results:**

- No gaps or deficiencies in the 450 overarching requirements.
- A small number of areas in which the requirements could be reinforced, through the addition of new requirements and the modification of a few existing requirements.
- Most of the proposed additions are not new issues as they are already covered in Safety Guides which provide recommendations on the measures necessary to meet safety requirements.

- **Example of such additions**

- Consideration of additional provisions to cope with situations involving the loss, over an extended period of time, of off-site power or the ultimate heat sink;
- Consideration of properly identified potential external hazards, including those that could affect the availability of regional infrastructure in extreme external events;
- The need to ensure that information on essential safety parameters remains available in severe accident conditions.

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **New elements considered for the second phase of the review of the IAEA Safety Standards:**
 - New reports available from Japan and other national and regional reports
 - Safety re-assessment (sometimes called ‘stress tests’)
 - Results of the International Experts Meetings
 - Outcome of the second Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety
- **CSS approval in October 2012 of the outline plan for the consequent revision, through addenda, of five Safety Requirements publications :** the General Safety Requirements on Governmental, Legal and Regulatory Framework for Safety, and on Safety Assessment for Facilities and Activities, **and the Specific Safety Requirements publications** on Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations, on Design of Nuclear Power Plants and on Commissioning and Operation of Nuclear Power Plants.

Overview of Strengthened IAEA Safety Standards

- **Main conclusion:**
 - **No significant areas of weakness**
 - **Comprehensiveness and adequacy of the current Safety Requirements**
 - **Fitness for purpose of the safety standards: the great majority of the lessons identified from several reports were already addressed in the Safety Requirements**
 - **Opportunity to enhance the clarity of the requirements by making a small number of amendments and thus to facilitate their implementation**

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- **Main conclusion (Cont'd):**
 - the CSS reiterated that:
 - **The IAEA safety standards (Fundamentals, Requirements and Guides) are the global reference for achieving a harmonized high level of safety worldwide in the uses of nuclear energy and radiation sources**
 - However, safety standards can only fulfil this purpose effectively if
 - **Consistently applied in practice.**
- **Therefore, greater attention has to be paid by and in all Member States to the wholesale application and use of the IAEA safety standards.**