

EPR Challenges & Actions Taken by Member States Due to COVID-19

Monday, 22 March 2021 12:30-14:00 UTC

Organized by:
The IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC)

Background: The IAEA Safety Standard *Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency*, IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 7, was published in 2015 under the joint sponsorship of 13 international intergovernmental organizations. This publication establishes the requirements for ensuring an adequate level of preparedness and response for a nuclear or radiological emergency, irrespective of the initiator of the event, that are always applicable, including during a global pandemic.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, operating organizations of nuclear and radioactive facilities, regulatory bodies, response organizations, and other competent authorities have adopted measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on essential functions and services to ensure the continued safe, secure, and reliable operation of facilities and conduct of activities, consistent with the IAEA safety standards, such as GSR Part 7, and national regulatory requirements. A review of Member State experiences during the pandemic showed that actions taken to address these effects on plans and actions related to nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response (EPR) varied among the Member States.

The purpose this webinar is to share preliminary lessons learned and experiences related to nuclear and radiological EPR functions during the pandemic and to encourage information sharing to assist Member States in considering additional actions to improve preparedness and response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics. The IAEA is collecting information through the duration of the pandemic and will continue to share it with Member States through various means, including webinars such as this one.

Objectives: The objectives of the Webinar are to:

- Outline role of the IAEA in collecting information from Member States;
- Provide overview of challenges posed and actions taken by Member States during COVID-19 pandemic;
- Discuss impact of COVID-19 pandemic on EPR functions and trends identified;
- Discuss modifications made to date on national EPR arrangements to address this impact.

Target audience: The Webinar is open to professionals with responsibilities related to emergency preparedness or response at the national, regional, or local level, including staff from regulatory bodies, operating organizations, technical support organizations, competent authorities, and first responders. Staff and specialists from relevant international organizations, research organizations, professional associations,

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societies, and non-governmental organizations are welcome to participate in the Webinar.

Working language: English

Registration: Please register for the webinar using this link: [Register](#)

After the registration and acceptance of your participation, you will receive an electronic mail containing information on how to access the webinar by simply following a hyperlink to join the WebEx meeting or by calling by phone.

You can test your ability to connect to a WebEx meeting at the following link: <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html#>. Please contact your IT department if the test fails.

For additional help regarding registration, please contact s.horvitz@iaea.org

Deadline for registration: **21 March 2021**

Webinar programme:

1. Opening
Mr R. de La Vega, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, IEC, IAEA
2. Overview & Actions Taken by Member States due to COVID-19
Ms S. Horvitz, Associate Emergency Preparedness Officer, IEC, IAEA
3. Potential EPR Challenges Posed by COVID-19
Mr J. Anderson, Emergency Preparedness Officer, IEC, IAEA
4. Q&A Session
All participants
