

ARTEMIS Good Practices

National Strategy

(Topic 2)

FRANCE

Mission Date: 14 to 24 January 2018

Good Practice

The French approach to developing and implementing the National Plan: the scope of the National Plan is comprehensive including all radioactive materials and waste types, alternative scenarios and management routes; preparation, implementation and follow-up of the plan is well organized and main stakeholders are committed to the plan. Based on the consecutive plans, continuous improvement of the plan takes place efficiently.

Observation

The National Plan is updated at three year intervals by a pluralistic working group consisting of nuclear safety regulators, nuclear license holders, representatives from ministries and society, environmental organizations and local information commissions. The working group meets yearly 4-5 times to follow the progress of the program and also to prepare the next version of the plan. In addition to the follow-up of progress, national energy policy, National Inventory, ASN opinions, IRSN assessments, National Review Board annual report, OPECST review, HCTISN recommendations and consultations with the stakeholders are accounted for in the National Plan. The last report was also under public consultation and strategic environmental assessment. The implementation of the plan is made legally binding by publishing an Order and a Decree.

Basis

GSR Part 1 (Rev 1) Requirement 10 states that "Provision for the decommissioning of facilities and the management of radioactive waste and of spent fuel.

The government shall make provision for the safe decommissioning of facilities, the safe management and disposal of radioactive waste arising from facilities and activities, and the safe management of spent fuel."

GSR Part 5 Requirement 2 states that "National policy and strategy on radioactive waste management To ensure the effective management and control of radioactive waste, the government shall ensure that a national policy and a strategy for radioactive waste management are established. The policy and strategy shall be appropriate for the nature and the amount of the radioactive waste in the State, shall indicate the regulatory control required, and shall consider relevant societal factors. The policy and strategy shall be compatible with the fundamental safety principles [2] and with international instruments, conventions and codes that have been ratified by the State. The national policy and strategy shall form the basis for decision making with respect to the management of radioactive waste. (See Ref. [5].)

IAEA Comments/Highlights

No comments or highlights on this good practice.

GERMANY

Mission Date: 22 September to 4 October 2019

Good Practice

The use of the National Civil Society Board as a mediating and independent body to accompany the site selection process.

Observation

The site selection procedure is accompanied by the National Civil Society Board. This board is composed of public personages and selected citizens.

Basis

GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1) Requirement 36 states that “The regulatory body shall promote the establishment of appropriate means of informing and consulting interested parties and the public about the possible radiation risks associated with facilities and activities, and about the processes and decisions of the regulatory body.”

IAEA Comments/Highlights

No comments or highlights on this good practice.

Good Practice

From the very early stage of DGR development, a working group was involved that serves as a platform for exchange of information and discussion of options between the implementer and the various relevant national regulatory bodies. This approach contributes to improvement of the communication and coordination among different parties, improves efficiency and reduces the risk of significant time delays of the project.

Observation

The Government has established a Working Group on Radioactive Waste Management Monitoring, bringing together different national regulators and the DGR project implementer (INPP). The Working Group serves as a platform for information exchange and canvassing of options (without making binding decisions), and is expected to facilitate the most efficient and effective means of achieving the desired waste safety outcomes.

Basis

GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1) Requirement 36 states that “The regulatory body shall promote the establishment of appropriate means of informing and consulting interested parties and the public about the possible radiation risks associated with facilities and activities, and about the processes and decisions of the regulatory body.”

GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1) Requirement 7 states that “Where several authorities have responsibilities for safety within the regulatory framework for safety, the government shall make provision for the effective coordination of their regulatory functions, to avoid any omissions or undue duplication and to avoid conflicting requirements being placed on authorized parties.”

IAEA Comments/Highlights

No comments or highlights on this good practice.

Good Practice

The Government, the regulatory body, the operating organization and interested parties, have effectively implemented the national strategy to develop a geological disposal facility for spent fuel, which would be the first in operation in the world.

Observation

A geological disposal facility for spent fuel is being constructed in Finland. During 2021, an operational licence application was submitted by Posiva to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment along with supporting documentation to STUK.

Basis

SF-1 Principle 7, para 3.29 states that: “Radioactive waste must be managed in such a way as to avoid imposing an undue burden on future generations; that is, the generations that produce the waste have to seek and apply safe, practicable and environmentally acceptable solutions for its long term management [...]”

IAEA Comments/Highlights

No comments or highlights on this good practice.

Good Practice

The Government has established mechanisms for ensuring alignment of the strategies and plans developed by organizations involved in the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel with the National Policy, both individually and collectively.

Observation

The Atomic Act requires organizations involved in the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel to develop and implement strategies and plans that are consistent with the Policy. The ARTEMIS Review Team notes that there are mechanisms to review the alignment of individual strategies with the Policy and with each other.

Basis

GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1) Requirement 1, para. 2.3 states that “National policy and strategy for safety shall express a long term commitment to safety. The national policy shall be promulgated as a statement of the government’s intent. The strategy shall set out the mechanisms for implementing the national policy.”

GSR Part 5 para. 3.6. states that “The national strategy for radioactive waste management has to outline arrangements for ensuring the implementation of the national policy. It has to provide for the coordination of responsibilities [...]”

GSR Part 5 Requirement 2 states that “To ensure the effective management and control of radioactive waste, the government shall ensure that a national policy and a strategy for radioactive waste management are established. The policy and strategy shall be appropriate for the nature and the amount of the radioactive waste in the State, shall indicate the regulatory control required, and shall consider relevant societal factors. The policy and strategy shall be compatible with the fundamental safety principles and with international instruments, conventions and codes that have been ratified by the State. The national policy and strategy shall form the basis for decision making with respect to the management of radioactive waste.”

IAEA Comments/Highlights

No comments or highlights on this good practice.