



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The First Half Century

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Assessing energy options and strategies in Mexico

The challenge...

Mexico's electricity demand has been increasing by about 6% per year over the past 20 years. Energy demand has also been rising by an average of 3% per year. Given current economic growth, these rates are likely to continue, if not increase. Historically, fossil fuels have been the main source of primary energy. Current plans in the electricity sector base nearly 92% of new capacity on natural gas generation technologies. In view of the expected significant growth in demand, it is important to analyse the consequences of a fossil-based expansion, and to review possible alternative development paths, taking into account their economic, environmental and financial sustainability.

The project...

With assistance from the IAEA, personnel were trained, data were collected, scenarios were formulated, and simulations made using the models known as the Wien Automatic System Planning Package and the Energy and Power Evaluation Programme. The results were then analysed. The studies were carried out by a national team of specialists from the Mexican institutions that are involved in energy and electricity planning for the country.

The impact...

Electricity expansion planning, energy sector planning, and environmental impact studies were concluded and presented to the appropriate national authorities. The Government of Mexico is making strong and practical use of the work and results from this national project to establish national policy in this field. This project is also an excellent success story in terms of capacity building.

