



Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association (WENRA)

General Presentation



Basic Facts

- WENRA is an association of the heads of Nuclear Regulatory Authorities of the EU countries with NPPs and Switzerland
- The original ToR* was signed on **4 February 1999**
- WENRA has
 - **17 members:** Belgium*, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland*, France*, Germany*, Hungary, Italy*, Lithuania, Netherlands*, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain*, Sweden*, Switzerland*, United Kingdom*
 - at present **5 observers** (non-nuclear countries): Austria, Ireland, Luxemburg, Norway and Poland
- **WENRA Policy Statement of December 2005**



WENRA Policy Statement

- “We, the heads of the national Nuclear Safety Authorities, members of WENRA, commit ourselves to a continuous improvement of nuclear safety in our respective countries.”
- “Nuclear safety and radiation protection are based on the principle of the prime responsibility of the operators. The role of national regulators is to ensure that this responsibility is fully secured, in compliance with the regulatory requirements.”
- “In order to work together, we created the Western European Nuclear Regulators’ Association (WENRA)”...



Main Objectives

- **To develop a common approach to selected nuclear safety and radiation protection issues and regulation, in particular within the EU**
 - *National safety approaches have been developed from IAEA Safety Standards, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, industrial standards etc., but independently...*
- **To provide the EU with an independent capability to examine nuclear safety and regulation in (future) applicant countries**
 - *Nuclear safety was included in the European Union set of enlargement criteria...*
- **To serve as a network of chief nuclear safety regulators exchanging experience and discussing significant safety issues**



Working Groups – RHWG and WGWD

Two Working Groups established to **harmonise** safety approaches with the aim to continuously improve nuclear safety in the following target areas:

- **Reactor Safety**
 - **Reactor Harmonisation Working Group (RHWG)**
- **Radioactive Waste, Spent Fuel Storage, Decommissioning**
 - **Working Group on Waste and Decommissioning (WGWD)**



Working Groups - Methodology

1. Formulation of **Safety Reference Levels** (SRLs) – use of IAEA safety standards, best national practices
2. **Self-assessment** = national assessment of SRLs implementation (as regards both legal system & practice at relevant installations)
3. **Benchmarking** = common validation of national self-assessments
4. **Review of SRLs** (based on benchmarking experience and comments of stakeholders)
5. Development of **National Action Plans** for modification of national legal systems and practices according to benchmarking results



RHWG Activities

- **Original mandate** of RHWG (harmonization of requirements for existing reactors) **fulfilled, follow-up ongoing:**
 - = monitoring of national action plans
 - = experience feedback on update of regulations
 - = ensuring non-divergence of interpretations
- **New task** (2008) – formulation of **safety objectives for „new reactors“**



WGWD Activities

- **Working on fulfilling its original mandate** (harmonization of requirements in the field of radioactive waste and spent fuel storage, and decommissioning):
 - = the first version of SRLs for both areas published
 - = decommissioning benchmarking (*SRLs implementation at nuclear installations*) continuing
 - = compilation of National Action Plans ongoing
- **New task (2008) - SRLs for Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities**



Main Achievements in 10-Year History

- **WENRA has become an internationally recognized association with a unique methodology, and has**
 - contributed to improvement of national nuclear safety requirements through the formulation of common SRLs
 - contributed to improvement of the IAEA safety standards
 - created a new platform for open information exchange among regulators
- **2000 – Report on Nuclear Safety in EU Applicant Countries**
- **2006 – Report on Harmonization of Reactor Safety in WENRA Countries**



An Expanding Association

1999 - 10 members

2003 - 17 members

2009 - 17 members and 5 observers

2009 - 3 more observers invited (Armenia, Russian Federation and Ukraine)



New Challenges

- **WENRA is defining its position and relation to ENSREG and other relevant organisations**
- **WENRA is considering new tasks (e.g. research reactors) and cooperation (Armenia, Russian Federation and Ukraine)**