Holistic Review of IAEA Safety Standards: Challenges and Priorities

UK Response

The aim should be to produce a series of safety standards of a consistent quality that are as technology neutral as is possible. The graded approach should be adopted so that different types of installation can be covered in one document. The top down structure should be retained but with rationalisation of safety guides to minimise the number where possible although it is recognised that member states will not want to see massive changes to the structure. Currently some of the safety guides are far more detailed than others.

Priorities for the UK:

- Complete the guides already in-flight.
- Complete the knock-on revisions of the safety guides caused by the impact of Fukushima to ensure the series is consistent with the Requirement Documents (i.e. SSR-1, SSR-2/1, SSR-2/2 and GSR part 7) that are now more or less complete.
- Complete DS494 on internal hazards for which ONR is supporting the drafting.
- Complete DS503 (at DPP stage) on internal and external hazards for operating facilities for which ONR would be prepared to support the drafting once DS494 is complete.
- Complete DS504 (at DPP stage) on emergency arrangements. This is seen as a high priority for EPReSC.
- Complete DS507 (at DPP stage) on seismic hazards in site evaluation. ONR may be interested in supporting the drafting of this document.
- Complete DS508 (at DPP stage) on Safety Principles and General Design Requirements as the material within TECDOC 1791 needs to be captured within an agreed safety guide to implement the requirements in SSR-2/1 and SSR-2/2. There is currently a lot of uncertainty about how design extension conditions, practical elimination and the Vienna Declaration should be interpreted and this would aid reaching a consensus within the industry. ONR would be prepared to support the drafting of this document.
- Develop guidance on SMRs although it is recognised that the IAEA SMR safety forum is already looking at this aspect and there is UK representation.