Safety Standards Committee meetings

Report on the 29th CSS meeting

*Held from 25 to 27 May 2011*

D. Delattre, Scientific Secretary of the CSS
Safety and Security Coordination Section
Fukushima Daiichi accident

A presentation was made by NISA on the latest available information on the events in Japan and the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

There was also a joint presentation made by E. Buglova, P.S. Hahn and M. Lipar on the IAEA response.

Finally the CSS discussed the implications of the Fukushima accident on the IAEA Safety Standards.

The CSS agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal to continue the publication of the recently endorsed drafts as well as other drafts in the review process. It was agreed to include, on a case by case basis, a disclaimer indicating that:
The IAEA safety standards reflect an international consensus on what constitutes a high level of safety for protecting people and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation. The process of developing, reviewing and establishing the IAEA standards involves the IAEA Secretariat and all Member States, many of which are represented on the four IAEA Safety Standards Committees and the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards.

The IAEA standards, as a key element of the global safety regime, are kept under regular review by the Secretariat, the Safety Standards Committees and the Commission on Safety Standards. The Secretariat gathers information on experience in the application of the IAEA standards and information gained from the follow-up of events for the purpose of ensuring that the standards continue to meet users’ needs. The present publication reflects feedback and experience accumulated until 2010 and it has been subject to the rigorous review process for standards.

The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan caused by the disastrous earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011 and the consequences of the emergency for people and the environment have to be fully investigated. They are already under study in Japan, at the IAEA and elsewhere. Lessons to be learned for nuclear safety and radiation protection and for emergency preparedness and response will be reflected in IAEA safety standards as they are revised and issued in the future.
 Approval of drafts standards

Safety Requirements:

- DS414, Safety Requirements, Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Design endorsed by the CSS on 26 May 2011

- BSS – DS379. Draft 5.0 endorsed by the CSS on 27 May 2011. The Secretariat to launch a 30 days consultation of Member States on a revised Schedule III of DS379 that incorporates the new dose limit for the lens of the eye, and the Chair of the CSS to endorse the final text of Schedule III after consultation of the outgoing and incoming RASSC Chairs on their assessment of the Member States comments.

- DPP for the revision of the Safety Requirements WS-R-5 on Decommissioning and Termination of Activities (DS450) approved by the CSS
Approval of drafts standards

Safety Guides:

- DS351, Draft Safety Guide on The Use of a Graded Approach in the application of the Safety Requirements for Research Reactors endorsed by the CSS
- DS405, Draft Safety Guide on Volcanic Hazards in Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations endorsed by the CSS
- DPP DS450 for a Safety Requirement on Decommissioning and Termination of Activities, revision of WS-R-5 endorsed by the CSS
- DPP DS452 for a Safety Guide on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations, combination of DS402 and DS404 endorsed by the CSS
- DPP DS441 for a new Safety Guide on Construction of Nuclear Installations endorsed by the CSS
Policy discussion

The CSS also discussed the following important topics:

- Feedback from the CNS review meeting
- Three year reports of the four Safety Standards Committees
- Future areas of work, input from the Secretariat and Committees. Need to be complemented by an action plan on the feedback from the Fukushima accident
- Preparation of the CSS four year report
- Revision of the Terms of Reference of the CSS for the next term
- Progress report on the pilot study for the newly proposed feedback and review/revision process
The CSS Chair summarized the results of the meeting indicating that four principles were agreed upon by the participants:

- Nuclear security and nuclear safety are equally important and the process for review/approval should reflect this.
- Nuclear Safety DPPs and Nuclear Security DPPs should be reviewed to identify/define interfaces, if any.
- Draft Nuclear Safety documents and draft Nuclear Security documents that have an identified interface should be developed in consultation.
- After implementation of points 2 and 3, draft Nuclear Safety documents and draft Nuclear Security documents should be reviewed and approved to ensure the coordination has been effective and that they are in accordance with the Nuclear Safety Fundamentals and the Nuclear Security Fundamentals.
Long term and intermediate structure:

- It was suggested that the long term structure should include a new Safety and Security Series Commission with both the safety and security expertise and a set of Committees to cover the technical aspects of the safety and security series of publications, including a new Nuclear Security Guidance Committee.

- In the intermediate phase, the NSGC and the four existing Safety Standards Committees will be complemented by an “Interface Group” (probably the meeting of the Chairs and addition senior experts) to review DPPs and drafts and refer them to the appropriate Committees for their review. The Safety Standards Committees will continue to report to the CSS and the NSGC will report to the DDG who will decide which further consultation is deemed necessary.