DS432, DS427 and DS442: Actions by the Secretariat after NUSSC-RASSC-WASSC 38th Meeting

During discussion of the draft Safety Guides in preparation related to protection of the people and the environment —DS432, DS427 and DS442—at NUSSC-RASSC-WASSC 38th Meeting in November 2014, the Secretariat and members of the SSCs noted the need of further work before this documents would be in position to be submitted to Member States, in order to resolve a number of issues and incorporate the comments received prior to and during the Meeting.

It was also noted during the discussions that it would be important to submit the three documents to Member States simultaneously for comment, in order to get a wider range of views on the content.

It was agreed that that all three documents would be revised by the Secretariat, in line with comments received, and afterward be provided to the Chairmen of NUSSC, RASSC and WASSC for clearance, prior to submission to Member States. In order for the three draft safety guides to be available for consideration by the Committees at their meeting in November 2015, the drafts would need to be cleared by the Chairmen in early March 2015.

To accomplish this task on time, the Secretariat has deliberations internally and in consultation with international experts organized a consultancy meeting where the two Technical Officers responsible for this drafts and senior experts from countries with experience in the topics under discussion elaborated the new versions of the documents.

Finally, DS432, DS427 and DS442 were provided to the chairmen and, with their clearance, Notes Verbales were circulated on the 19 of March 2015 (Ref. J5.05; J5.03.01) and the documents were posted on the SSCs web page. The deadline for submission of comments was established 120 days after the Notes Verbales, e.g. by the 20th July 2015. The Secretariat will consider the comments to come and prepare the final versions, in time for inclusion in the agenda of the November 2015 meetings of the relevant SSCs, “for approval for submission to CSS”.