End of Term Reports from the SSCs and NSGC: Summary for DDG-NS

Introduction

Each of the safety standards review committees (EPReSC, NUSSC, RASSC, TRANSSC and WASSC) and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) has prepared an individual end of term report providing a detailed account of their activities.

This note is intended to provide a brief summary of specific initiatives and conclusions that have been noted in the end of term reports, especially where these are common to all (or at least most of) the committees.

A brief summary of the focus, activities and future priorities of each of the individual committees is provided as an Appendix.

Common initiatives and conclusions

- All the end of term reports noted the value of the “Meeting of the Committee Chairs”, held just before the CSS meetings. These meetings were considered to be a useful forum for exchanging information and for encouraging consistency.
- All the committees are continuing to encourage presentations from Member States to provide feedback on the implementation of Safety Standards or the use of, and needs for, Nuclear Security Guidance.
- All the committees establish or have established “ad hoc”, mostly temporary, working groups to address specific aspects or technical areas.
- There has been an overall increase in the involvement of external organizations as observers to the committees, and the value of the contributions by these observers to the work of the committees has been noted.
- All the committees undertook a self-assessment exercise, as requested by DDG-NS. The amount of feedback varied between committees, however:
  - The responses were uniformly positive in terms of the committees meeting their Terms of Reference in relation to transparency, consensus, quality, coherence and quality;
  - All committees identified some areas for improvement, including the need for more interaction between different committees and increasing the efficiency of the publication process.
- All the SSCs use (or are planning to use) on-line conferencing as a means of encouraging remote participation in the committee meetings. The potential use of this approach has also been discussed at NSGC.
- All the committees identified a need to enhance the interface between safety and security, and specifically to improve coordination and communication between NSGC and the SSCs, including arranging joint meeting sessions in the next term.
Appendix: Brief summary of focus, initiatives and plans from the end of term reports for the review committees

EPrESeC

Focus: Establishing an effective and efficient committee in its first term. Developing Safety Guides to support the implementation of GSR Part 7, and discussing the technical guidance developed by the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) through its EPR Series publications.

- Specific initiatives:
  - Establishing Operating Guidelines and a roadmap for new EPR safety standards.
  - Establishing temporary Working Groups on:
    - Revision of GS-G-2.1;
    - Communication in an emergency (“What is safe?”).
  - Joint meeting with WASSC

- Future plans and priorities:
  - Reviewing and extending the roadmap for the EPR safety standards;
  - Establishing a Working Group to review EPR Safety Standards in light of the 2012 UNSCEAR report on Attributing Health Effects to Ionizing Radiation Exposure and Inferring Risks;
  - Increasing the involvement of EPrESeC in decisions regarding the development of EPR Series publications;
  - Revision of GS-G-2.1 and review of GSG-2, including specific efforts to collect comments from Member States;
  - Identifying priorities for EPR Safety Guides.

NUSSC

Focus: Reviewing and updating safety standards to ensure that the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident are incorporated, and agreeing priorities for revision of Safety Guides.

- Specific initiatives:
  - Establishing temporary Working Groups on:
    - The review of specific draft Standards
    - The long term structure of Safety Guides
    - The review of the draft of GSR Part 2 (joint working group with WASSC).
  - Encouraging inputs from industry organizations
  - Joint meetings with RASSC and WASSC

- Future plans and priorities:
  - More efforts to encourage participation by Member States at meetings;
  - More focus on the implementation of Safety Standards by Member States;
  - Implementing a coordinated revision of Safety Guides, including initiatives to update interrelated Safety Guides as a group;
  - Addressing the safety of Small Modular Reactors;
  - Providing guidance on implementing the graded approach.
**RASSC**

**Focus:** Supporting the development of Safety Standards to support the implementation of GSR Part 3, with particular emphasis (jointly with WASSC) on the protection of the environment.

- **Specific initiatives:**
  - Establishing temporary Working Groups (electronic) on:
    - The 2012 UNSCEAR report on Attributing Health Effects to Radiation Exposure and Inferring Risks;
    - Developing recommendations on the need for additional work on the control of contaminated non-food commodities.
  - Use of Topical Sessions involving presentations from the Secretariat and external experts.
  - Joint meetings with WASSC and NUSSC

- **Future plans and priorities:**
  - Development of revised Safety Guides on exemption and clearance (jointly with WASSC), plus a separate publication on trade in contaminated commodities.
  - Supporting the implementation of GSR Part 3, particularly with regard to:
    - Graded approach to regulation
    - Implementation of optimization in planned exposure situations and existing exposure situations;
    - Radionuclides in food and water;
    - Corrective actions to reduce radon exposures;
    - Non-medical human imaging;
    - Radiation protection in veterinary medicine;
    - Radiation exposure of aircrew and space crew, including space tourism.

**TRANSSC**

**Focus:** Revising the Transport Regulations (SSR-6) and supporting advisory material (SSG-26), and reviewing related safety standards.

- **Specific initiatives:**
  - Establishment of ad-hoc Working Groups, including on:
    - Package design and marking and labelling requirements;
    - Package stowage and retention during transport;
    - A1 and A2 values;
    - Criticality;
    - NORM;
    - Dual purpose casks.
  - Changes to the format of meetings to improve efficiency and effectiveness of TRANSSC

- **Future plans and priorities:**
  - Arranging joint meetings with other SSCs and NSGC;
  - Review of TS-G-1.2 in conjunction with EPReSC;
  - Increasing the active participation of Member States at meetings;
  - Continuing outreach efforts for Member States that do not currently attend TRANSSC.
**WASSC**

**Focus:** Developing Safety Standards to support the implementation of GSR Part 5 (Predisposal Management of Radioactive Waste), GSR Part 6 (Decommissioning of Facilities) and SSR-5 (Disposal of Radioactive Waste).

- **Specific initiatives:**
  - Use of Topical Sessions involving presentations from the Secretariat and external experts;
  - Addressing the need to develop guidance on remediation, clearance, environmental protection, and the management of NORM residues;
  - Joint meetings with RASSC, NUSSC and EPReSC.

- **Future plans and priorities:**
  - Review of GSR Part 5.
  - The development of guidance on:
    - Revised Safety Guides on exemption and clearance (jointly with RASSC)
    - Existing exposure situations;
    - Transition from operation into decommissioning;
    - Policy and strategy for radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning, and environmental remediation;
    - Operational safety for geological disposal facilities;
    - Stakeholder involvement in planning disposal;
    - Determining waste acceptance criteria.
  - Improved interactions with NSGC, including a joint meeting session.
  - Seeking increased co-sponsorship of waste related publications.

**NSGC**

**Focus:** Completion of the set of Implementing Guides, review of the Fundamentals and Requirements publications, and establishing priorities for the issue of Technical Guidance publications.

- **Specific initiatives:**
  - Creation of temporary Working Groups on:
    - Safety–security interfaces;
    - Nuclear security guidance roadmap;
  - Revised Terms of Reference.
  - Improvements to the handling of safety–security interfaces.

- **Future plans and priorities:**
  - Further development of supporting guidance to the Implementing Guides;
  - Publication and translation of the Nuclear Security Series Glossary;
  - Improving the handling of safety–security interfaces, especially in areas where safety measures and security measures are strongly interdependent;
  - Arranging joint meeting sessions with safety standards committees;
  - Consider the issue of ‘non-consensus’ publications outside the Nuclear Security Series;
  - Greater efforts to encourage, collect and analyse feedback on the use of Nuclear Security Series publications.