

Corporate OSART MISSION to ČEZ,

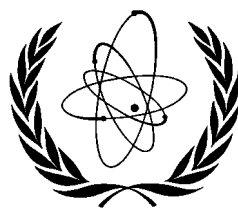
Prague, Czech Republic

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Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Dear předsedkyně Státného úřadu pro jadernou bezpečnost Dana Drabova, Dear Chief Nuclear Officer Ladyslaw Stepanek, dear Team Members and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning.

The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, unanimously endorsed by the General Conference just about two years ago, states that: "Each Member State with nuclear power plants to voluntarily host at least one IAEA Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) mission during the coming three years, with the initial focus on older nuclear power plants. Thereafter, OSART missions to be voluntarily hosted on a regular basis."

Being here today at the closing meeting of this first, ever organized, Corporate OSART, is for me a symbol of the continuous progress in the search for nuclear safety, because this mission gathers three key elements of that progress:

One: we are in the Czech Republic which has been for a long time an excellent example for the use of the OSART missions. The first OSART mission in the Czech Republic was conducted at Dukovany NPP in 1989 followed every ten years or so by a new mission: 2001 and 2011.

At Temelin NPP, a Pre-OSART was conducted before start-up, and the last OSART there was in 2012.

The Czech regulatory body SUJB takes an active part in the development of IAEA Safety Standards, and its Chair, Dana Drabova is chair of Commission for Safety Standards (CSS)

Two: many Czech experts have provided their competence to OSART missions across the years. We all know that peer review missions exist only inasmuch as peers are available. This is a key issue for us, at the IAEA, to convince experts and their organizations of the value for them, the value for their organization, the value for safety, to allow them to abandon their job at home for the time of a mission.

And three: here today we are gathered: the team which conducted the first Corporate OSART, with the operator, CEZ, which first requested such a mission... and a DDG who attended his first OSART exit meeting!

The progress will be measurable through the lessons learned by us, the IAEA, for the conduct of the mission, which will be immediately fed into the preparation of the next Corporate OSART. The progress will soon be measurable through the good practices identified and taken back home by the team members. The progress will also be measurable through the implementation of an action plan and the follow-up mission already requested by CEZ.

Indeed, in deciding to go through this full cycle of regular OSARTs and follow-ups, including now the corporate OSART, all the Czech actors: CEZ, SUJB, and the Czech Government take an active part in making the IAEA Safety Standards just that little more closer to being recognized universally as THE norm, and the request of peer reviews, including follow-up, as THE recognized package which can bring confidence to the public and to neighbouring countries. Confidence that Safety is a priority here, Confidence that Safety is well addressed, and Confidence in the dedication to strengthening nuclear safety.

As the Brits say: proof of the pudding is in the eating. Here, proof of the dedication to safety is in the consistently good appreciations, from the various teams, of the results achieved during numerous missions.

Yesterday when I entered the working room, for a not so short time, I was unable to make out who was the team and who was the counterpart. I only saw experts devoted to the results of this safety mission. Fortunately, I then was able to make out Mr OSART (thank you Miro) and then all the others.

To conclude, I want to warmly thank the team members, their CEZ counterparts, and above all, those who made this mission possible: CEZ through its Chief Nuclear Officer Ladyslaw Stepanek, and SUJB through my very good friend its Chair Dana Drabova.

Thank you for your attention.