

CONVENTION ON

NUCLEAR SAFETY

REPORT BY

URUGUAY

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Introduction

This report gives an outline of the national policy, regulatory framework and emergency response in Uruguay.

National Nuclear Policy

Uruguay does not have any nuclear installations (For the new government chosen nuclear energy is not a priority or is taken into account in the energy matrix), research reactors or fuel storage facilities. Our main radiological installations belong to medical and industrial applications as well as agriculture, investigation and teaching.

Uruguay's policy priorities concentrate therefore on improving radiological protection, physical protection and on emergency preparedness.

Convention on Nuclear Safety to Uruguay

As Uruguay does not have any nuclear installations as defined in Article 2 of the Convention, the applicability to Uruguay of its obligations is limited to Articles 4, 5, 7, 8 and 16.3.

Article 4 – Implementing Measures

These measures are explained in this National Report.

Article 5 – Reporting

This National Report fulfils this obligation.

Article 7 – Legislative and Regulatory Framework

The legislative framework is supported by the Law on Protection and Radiation Safety recently approved No. 19.056 (January 2013) and National Regulatory Decree 2014. It sets out the responsibilities, functions of the Regulatory Authority as well as a chapter on enforcement and sanctions.

The legislative framework governing radiological safety and security in Uruguay is the Basic Radiological Protection Standard UY 100.

In addition, all practices involving sources or generators of ionizing radiation are regulated by several Standards from Standard UY 101 to Standard UY 123.

The Basic Standard UY 100 places legal requirements on all licensees, inspections and enforcement subjects.

The essential legal infrastructure for radiation safety is well established in Uruguay and the regulatory programme operated by the Regulatory Body is effective according with the IAEA recommendations.

In 26 March 2006, Uruguay became the 2nd Latin America Contracting State of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Radioactive Waste and the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and participated in the 2nd Review Meeting in May 2006.

Article 8 – Regulatory Body

The National Regulatory Authority in Radiation Safety-NRAR is the only regulatory body established by Law 17.930 and now reaffirmed by the Law 19.056. It belongs to the central government inside the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining.

The NRAR carries out the following duties:

- * Control the activities that involve the use of ionizing radiations in all the national territory, through the inspections of the facilities.

- * Elaborate the norms, code of practice and regulations for the safe use of ionizing radiation.

- * Authorize the import, export and transport of radioactive sources, and generators of ionizing radiation.

- * Issue institutional and personal licenses from operation with ionizing radiation and to revoke them if no compliance is verified.

- * Provision of information to the public on any matter relating to radiological safety.

- * Supervise the Radiological Emergencies Group (article 299, Law 17.366).

- * Manage and maintain updated the National Inventory of radioactive sources.

- * Offer the service of personal Dosimetry to the workers, in fulfillment of article 302 of Law 16.736.

* Representing the State on international aspects.

* To be the competent authority for Uruguay under International Conventions on nuclear matters.

Article 16.3 Emergency Preparedness

On 1st August 2005 was issued the Presidential Decree Nr. 242/2005, approving the Radiological National Emergency Plan. In 2016 was sent to Presidency to a review of the Plan to be approved.

The NRAR have the specialized Emergency Group with 4 trained experts and we work together inside the National System of Emergency (SINAE) that belongs to the Presidency of the Republic.

In the SINAE System are prepared for the first response all the specific trained institutions as firemen, national and local police, public health ministry and national army.

The plan is based on risk assessment and address potential risks to the workers, intervention personnel and members of the public.

As Uruguay has as neighbors, two nuclear countries (Argentina and Brazil) we have two environmental monitoring stations near each borders as radiological surveillance. We have made arrangements for the Early Detection of Atmospheric Contamination.

Data from gamma dose stations are continuously fed back to a central computer at the NRAR. In the event that elevated radiation levels are detected, an alarm is automatically raised. Besides there is in the NRAR an exclusive telephone for emergencies warnings.

There is a close cooperation with the regulatory body of Argentina. We were invited to participate of the emergency exercise in Atucha I, closer NPP of Uruguay border and also we

were invited to participate of the exercise of the Embalse nuclear plant. Also We are signing a new cooperation agreement with Argentina, through the Foreign Ministry.

On the other hand, Brazil has invited several times to emergency exercise in Angra Dos Reis, nuclear plant.

Uruguay carries out several times, exercise of emergency and security response with the technical cooperation of IAEA and local institution.

Conclusions

This is the fourth National Report of Uruguay from December 2003 when has entry in force. The NRAR considers that the information of this Report describes Uruguay compliance with the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

