



Convention on Nuclear Safety

National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain

27 December 2016

Introduction

The Kingdom of Bahrain has no Nuclear Installations, land based or otherwise, on Bahraini territory or under Bahraini jurisdiction as per paragraph (i) of Article (2) of the Treaty, and The Kingdom of Bahrain has no plans to start a nuclear power program in the foreseen future, thus, there are no installations in The Kingdom of Bahrain that would be covered by the Scope of Application of the Treaty as stated in Article (3).

However, and taking into account the developments in nuclear power programs in a number of countries in the region, and the constitutional responsibility of the Government of Bahrain to protect the environment and the citizens and residents of the Kingdom from any unwanted consequences resulting from the normal operation of the nuclear installations in the region or from any possible accident that may occur in any of them, Bahrain's report to the Seventh Review Meeting shall confine itself to reporting on the obligations stated in Article (7) "Legislative and Regulatory Framework, Article (8) "Regulatory Body" and Article (16) "Emergency Preparedness".

Legislative and Regulatory Framework

Understanding the necessity to regulate and control the import, export, possession, handling and usage of radioactive material and radiation sources and the disposal of the resulting radioactive waste, the Law by Decree number 21 with respect to the environment was issued in 1996. The law included articles to regulate these aspects, which included the prohibition of such activities without acquiring the appropriate licenses and/or permits.

Based on this law, and following the recommendations of the respective IAEA safety standards, procedures were established and implemented for the licensing and authorization of import, export, possession, handling and using radioactive material and radiation sources and for regulating and control of handling and disposal of radioactive waste.

An amended version of the Law by Decree number 21:1996 (Environment Law) was presented to the Bahraini parliament. The amendment included a chapter on radiation safety and security, and is in final stages at the parliament.

Based on Law number 38 for the Establishment of the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) issued in 2009, NHRA issued in 2014 the ministerial decree number 4 regulating the Radiological Applications in Health Establishments.

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain is currently considering promulgating a law specific for radiation safety and the safety and security of radiation sources and nuclear materials specified by the NPT. Taking into

consideration the legislative process in the Kingdom of Bahrain, such a law may take a few years before such a law is issued.

Regulatory Body

Law by Decree number 21 with respect to the environment gave the responsibility and authority for its implementation to the Environment Authority, which was under the Ministry of Housing, Municipalities and Environment when the Law was issued.

The Law by Decree number 47 for the year 2012 established the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) in the Kingdom of Bahrain and annexed the Council to the Cabinet of Ministers. This gives the Council the highest achievable effective separation from other bodies and organizations promoting or, if to exist in the future, using nuclear energy.

The Law gave the Council the authorities and responsibilities of the Environment Authority stated in Law by Decree number 21 for the year 1996 and facilitated the implementation of the law through an Executive Body for the Council.

The Executive Body of the SCE is currently performing all licensing and authorization, control and inspection activities related to all practices involving the usage of radiation sources and generators in coordination with NHRA and the other concerned Ministries and Authorities in Bahrain. This also includes issuing orders, referring to Court, license amendment, suspension and revoking, and seizure of sources when necessary. The Executive body of the SCE is a government entity, thus, it is funded through the annual budget of the Government of Bahrain as all other ministries.

With respect to the nuclear/radiological regulatory activities, Staff number and staff competency are under development with the assistance of the IAEA.

Emergency Preparedness

Effective Management of Nuclear & Radiological emergency requires a national plan & arrangement to be in place. A well maintained & shared joint exercise is to be regularly carried out as part of the National Major Civil Contingency Strategy.

Amiri Decree No 5 of 1990 assigned the Civil Defense (Ministry of Interior) as the legal responsible authority during all kinds of Emergency in Bahrain, Including Radiological Emergencies and Active Civil Defense.

The “Civil Defence Council” was established in 1990 following His Royal Highness The Prime Minister’s Directive No.(6) of 1991 in accordance with Amiri Decree No.5 of 1990. The “Civil Defence Council” is charged with the responsibility for developing National Policies that encourage a Culture of Risk Awareness and Risk Reduction so that identified risks are effectively managed and to develop policies that create an effective and efficient response in the event of a National Crisis/Emergency, to successfully manage it and rapidly recover from the consequences.

National Committees:

I. National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM):

The NCDM is to ensure the Kingdom’s Security and Safety by emplacing mechanisms and systems to encourage a National Culture of Risk Awareness and Risk Reduction; by ensuring that all Risks are properly managed and ensuring that comprehensive plans exist so that any Crisis is successfully managed and swiftly recovered from.

The NCDM is legally authorized to act as the focal point for all matters concerning Risk and Crisis Management. The Committee is to act as the executive arm of the Civil Defense Council (CDC) to ensure inter and multi-agency coordination and cooperation of the Nation’s Security and Safety resources in time of peace and war.

The NCDM is to carry out the following specific tasks:

- Assess the general state of public safety and recommend plans, programmes and measures accordingly.
- Recommend plans and detailed programs to manage disasters efficiently and effectively and to reduce their effects.
- Recommend and coordinate tasks of Ministries and other agencies involved in disaster management.
- Recommend a list of regulations required to achieve public safety according to existing laws in the Kingdom and to international standards.
- Carry out continuous assessment of general emergency plans and specialized plans of Ministries and other relevant agencies and recommend required amendments and updates.
- Identify and establish volunteer groups for specific areas and follow-up their training programmes.
- Ensure cooperation and coordination with Committees, Institutes, and Organizations specializing in the field of Risk and Crisis Management.
- Carry out any actions or tasks to manage Risk and Crisis as ordered by the Minister of the Interior or the Civil Protection Council.
- Coordinate a Programme for joint exercises and follow-up execution of such programmes.

2. National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction:

This Committee is responsible, among others, on the following:

- Implementing all international and regional treaties.
- Coordinate between relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Raise awareness on WMDs.
- Reviews related national legislations and proposes legislations and procedures for implementing international instruments.

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