WENRA

Building European common approach to nuclear safety and interaction between WENRA and ENSREG

3rd GNSSN Steering Committee Meeting
Vienna, 5-6 December 2013
Dieter Müller-Ecker (GRS mbH – Germany)
Head of WENRA Technical Secretariat
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Vienna, 5-6 December 2013

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WENRA
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Basic facts

• Association of the Heads of nuclear regulatory authorities of the EU countries with NPP and Switzerland

• Original Terms of Reference signed on 4 February 1999 (10 countries)
  ➢ Revised on 14 March 2003 (17 countries)
  ➢ Revised on 26 March 2010

• Independent club of regulators

• European center of competence for Nuclear Safety

www.wenra.org
01 WENRA
Policy statement

• “We the heads of the national Nuclear Safety Authorities, members of WENRA commit ourselves to continuous improvement of nuclear safety in our respective countries.”

• “Nuclear safety and radiation protection are based on the principle of the prime responsibility of the operators. The role of national regulators is to ensure that this responsibility is fully secured in compliance with the regulatory requirements.”

• “In order to work together, we created the Western European Nuclear Regulators’ Association (WENRA)” ...
Main Objectives

- To develop a common approach to selected nuclear safety and radiation protection issues and their regulation, in particular within the European Union.

- To provide the European Union Institutes with an independent capability to examine nuclear safety and its regulation in applicant countries.

- To serve as a network of chief nuclear safety regulators exchanging experience and discussing significant safety issues.

- WENRA plenary meeting 2/yr.
Two technical Working Groups have been established to harmonize safety approaches with the aim to continuously improve nuclear safety:

**RHWG**  Reactor Harmonization Working Group

**WGWD**  Working Group on Waste and Decommissioning
01 WENRA
Technical Working Groups, Methodology

1. Formulation of **Safety Reference Levels** (SRLs)
   - use of IAEA standards, best national practices

2. **Self-assessment** = national assessment of SRLs implementation
   - in legal system and in practice at NPPs

3. **Benchmarking** = common validation of national self-assessments

4. **Review of SRLs**
   - based on benchmarking experience and stakeholder comments

5. Development of **National Action Plans** for adaptation of legal requirements according to benchmarking results
Harmonization process

WGWD
Elaboration of Safety Ref. Levels

Regulators
Self-assessment of Compliance

WGWD
Benchmarking Validation

Regulators
Elaboration of National Action Plan

WGWD
Benchmarking of National Action Plan

Adapted national regulatory system in compliance with SRLs
WENRA Working Group on Waste and Decommissioning WGWD
02 WENRA WGWD

WGWD activities

Originally
Harmonization of requirements in the field of radioactive waste and spent fuel storage and decommissioning

2008
Reference Levels for radioactive waste disposal facilities

2013
Program on implementation of RL on decommissioning, disposal and storage, umbrella document in drafting process

Members
Senior experts of regulatory bodies of all member countries, meetings approx. 2/yr and subgroups
02 WENRA WGWD

WGWD activities

- Disposal
- Decommissioning
- Storage
- Conditioning

Umbrella Document
WENRA Reactor Harmonization Working Group RHWG
RHWG activities

Originally

• Harmonization of requirements in the field of reactor safety
  ➢ Working on safety reference levels for existing reactors
  ➢ Also safety expectations for new reactors

Members

• Senior experts from all WENRA countries
• Meetings 3/yr and subgroups
03 WENRA RHWG
RHWG activities, existing NPP

2003
Pilot study on Safety Reference Levels

2006
Report on Harmonization

2007/2008
Safety Reference Levels for existing NPP on 18 selected issues
(issues see last sheet)

2011
Report on progress to harmonization

2013
Review of SRLs in the light of Fukushima accident
=> for comments on WENRA web-page
01 WENRA
SRL updating process

- After Fukushima review of the SRLs with regard to the lessons learnt from the accident
- Establishment of ad-hoc Working Groups under consideration of ENSREG recommendations derived from stress test

Ad-hoc Working Groups (post Fukushima):
- Natural hazards
- Containment integrity
- Accident management
- Periodic safety review
- Mutual assistance
03 WENRA RHWG

RHWG activities, existing NPP

2011
Pilot study on Long Term Operation

2011
Task force on stress test specification

2012
Benchmarking of inspection practices

2013
Position paper on PSR

2013
**Recommendation on flaw indications** found in Belgian reactors
03 WENRA RHWG
RHWG activities, new NPP

2009
Safety Objectives for new NPP

2010
WENRA statement on Safety Objectives for new NPP

2013
Report on Safety of new NPP
WENRA – ENSREG interaction
## 04 WENRA – ENSREG interaction

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<th>WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association)</th>
<th>ENSREG (European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group)</th>
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<td>Founded 2007</td>
<td>Founded 1999</td>
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<td>Senior officials from the national regulatory authorities</td>
<td>Senior officials from the national regulatory authorities</td>
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<td>27 EU countries + Observer (Commission, Council, Switzerland, Norway and IAEA)</td>
<td>16 EU countries with NPP and Switzerland + Observer (AM, AT, DK, IE, LU, NO, PL, RU, UA)</td>
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<td>High-level group at EC level</td>
<td>Voluntary and independent club</td>
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<td>Strives for continuous improvement of RS</td>
<td>Strives for harmonization on high level</td>
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<td>Advises/Reports to EU Commission</td>
<td>Self-commitment, reports to the public</td>
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<td>Formulating directives for nuclear safety</td>
<td>Working on the technical content</td>
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<td>In principle: Setting <strong>directives</strong> and perform actions on EU level</td>
<td>Setting harmonized <strong>technical standards</strong></td>
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04 WENRA – ENSREG interaction

Example Stress test

11-3-2011 Fukushima accident
15-3-2011 Meeting with Commissioner Oettinger
25-3-2011 European Council requires stress test
5-4-2011 WENRA task force defines stress test specification
13-5-2011 ENSREG and Commission agreed in stress test declaration
1-6-2011 Start stress test
31-12-2011 Final national reports followed by peer reviews
18-3-2012 WENRA establishes ad-hoc WGs based on stress test insights
26-4-2012 ENSREG summary report
13-11-2013 WENRA update of Safety Reference Levels
Conclusions
05 Conclusions

• WENRA and ENSREG are networking on a European level
• Both are pillars of nuclear safety in Europe
• Striving for harmonization and improvement of nuclear safety
• Stress test and update of Safety Reference Level as example for networking within EU
Thank you

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# WENRA SRL

## RHWG Issues

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<td>Natural hazards (new issue after Fukushima)</td>
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