Establishment of the Centre for Nuclear Safety and Security in South Africa: Project Progress and Lessons Learnt

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Abstract

In order to conform to international best practice, and to address existing regulatory challenges, the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) embarked on a multi-phased project to establish a centre for nuclear safety and security (CNSS) in July 2014. The CNSS was subsequently launched in September 2016 to mark the completion of the first phase of the project. The CNSS project is the first of its kind to be undertaken by the NNR and is also the first application of a process to establish a nuclear safety centre for a nuclear regulatory body in South Africa and in Africa. As such the CNSS project provides an opportunity to learn new lessons regarding the implementation of the process for establishing a nuclear safety centre for a nuclear regulatory organization. The aim of this paper is to disseminate information on the process followed in establishing the CNSS, present a summary the project close-out report in order to formalize acceptance and closure of the first phase, highlight lessons learnt, outline the vision, mission and values for the operational phase of the project. The organization of the operational phase of the project, key deliverables and major risks for mitigation are also outlined to ensure that subsequent phases of the project remain on track. The successful completion of the establishment phase of the CNSS project, despite some few logistical challenges, serves as an important demonstration that similar projects can be planned and completed with products that have direct use by other regulatory bodies in Africa.