Toward a System of Global Accountability

IAEA Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems: Session on *Strengthening International Cooperation*

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April 14, 2016
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

- Regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians and the environment
- Implements Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Disseminates objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public

Canada’s nuclear watchdog
CNSC Regulates All Nuclear-Related Facilities and Activities

- Uranium mines and mills
- Uranium fuel fabricators and processing
- Nuclear power plants
- Waste management facilities
- Nuclear substance processing
- Industrial and medical applications
- Nuclear research and educational
- Import/export control

From cradle to grave
Canada’s Nuclear Universe

Fiscal year 2016–17
Human Resources: 850 FTEs
Financial Resources: $148 million
(~70% cost recovery; ~30% appropriation)
Licensees: ~1,700
Licences: ~2,500

HQ in Ottawa
4 site offices at power reactors
1 site office at Chalk River
4 regional offices
The CNSC is celebrating...

- Established in May 2000, under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*

- Replaced the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) under the 1946 *Atomic Energy Control Act*

...70 years of nuclear safety in 2016
Also 70 years ago – the Baruch Plan


Would have:
• Allowed exchange of basic scientific information for peaceful ends;
• Implemented control of nuclear power to ensure peaceful purposes;
• Eliminated atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; and
• Established effective safeguards through inspections and other means.

Behind the black portent of the new atomic age lies a hope which, seized upon with faith, can work out salvation ... Let us not deceive ourselves: we must elect world peace or world destruction. (Bernard Baruch’s address to the UNEAC, 14 June 1946)

A first failed attempt to establish international nuclear regulation
Five Years Ago – A New Wakeup Call

Fukushima Daiichi Accident
- 5 years on, still frequently referenced in media stories

Global Lessons Learned / Improvements Made
- Reviews conducted by regulators and operators
- Actions taken to improve safety of facilities
- IAEA DG’s Report on Fukushima Daiichi Accident

Important Developments in Canada
- CNSC Fukushima Task Force and External Advisory Committee
- Review of all major nuclear facilities
- IRRS follow-up Mission assessment of Fukushima response
- CNSC 4-year Action Plan – actions completed

International resolve to respond to worst nuclear accident in 30 years
Global Nuclear Regulatory Reality

**Strong, albeit decentralized, framework**

- IAEA and NEA, international conventions and processes, regional and operator fora
- Routine political discussion on nuclear security and non-proliferation – Not on nuclear safety
- International safety framework underpinned by principle of national regulatory sovereignty
- Each country’s safety regime based on its own regulatory framework
- IAEA as advisor on nuclear safety, responding to invitations by member states
- No global regulator in place to keep states accountable and committed to nuclear safety

Nuclear safety seen as the sole responsibility of individual states
Let’s Continue to Build on Status Quo

Public concerns / expectations
• Have regulators / operators learned lessons and taken necessary actions to prevent additional accidents?
• Readiness for new entrants and new technologies
• Public trust in regulator no longer a given – must be earned

Oversight and accountability
• No global accountability for verifying appropriateness of measures taken
• No consequences for non-compliance
• No forum for publicizing safety concerns
• Some issues must be raised to political level
• WANO and IAEA have positions to play this key role

An accident anywhere is an accident everywhere
What is the CNSC doing to move forward?

**Convention on Nuclear Safety 2017**
- Leadership of Ramzi Jammal, CNSC’s Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer
- Active participation in the Convention processes

**Supporting Peer Reviews**
- Welcoming them domestically (IRRS, IPPAS, EPREV...)
- Participating in them in countries committed to following up on recommendations and publishing reports

**Working With Partners**
- Close collaboration with IAEA, OECD/NEA, INRA, CANDU Senior Regulators, WANO, etc.

**Promoting Greater Accountability**
- Advocating stronger nuclear safety roles for IAEA and WANO
- Advocating publicly identifying poor performers / safety risks

**Collaboration and transparency**
How can we move forward together?

Welcome Peer Reviews / Publish Reports / Commit to Recommendations and Follow-up

• None of us has achieved perfection
• Continuous improvement and transparency

Clear, Informative and Constant Communication

• Nuclear safety has a good story to tell
• Dispel myths / misinformation

IAEA Mandate for Global Nuclear Safety

• Report to the Board of Governors and/or UN on nuclear safety issues and concerns
• Publicly identify performance, safety or readiness concerns

By communicating well; sharing regulatory learnings; and being open to constructive criticism
Thank you

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