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Viet Nam's Safeguards Implementation: Cooperation with International Partners and the IAEA

Viet Nam's nuclear fuel cycle consists of a research reactor and nuclear research institutes that produce radioisotopes for cancer treatment, perform scientific research, and support other medical and industrial applications for nuclear technology. In 2003, Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS) was established as the regulatory body to regulate all nuclear and radiological activities in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam entered the Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1989 and safeguards started to be implemented in the country in February 1990. In 2007, Viet Nam signed the Additional Protocol (AP) and brought it into force in September 2012. The State System of Accounting for and Control of nuclear material (SSAC) is a basis for safeguards implementation in Viet Nam. However, with the AP in force, safeguards is not any more only to verify the declared nuclear materials but also to confirm that there are no undeclared activities related to the nuclear fuel cycle in the State. Only strong SSAC with enhanced capabilities and activities can meet this demand. It is therefore cooperation at all levels is important. Apart from the State's efforts in developing and sustaining an SSAC, cooperation with international partners, especially the IAEA is important for an effective implementation of safeguards. It is the basis and foundation for ensuring effective accountancy and control of nuclear material in peaceful uses. Furthermore, safeguards nowadays require a partnership approach that not only optimizes the use of existing resources (e.g., inspectors working together, the joint use of safeguards techniques and equipment), but more importantly establishes an environment of confidence, which in turn can contribute to the effectiveness of safeguards implementation for the State and the IAEA as well.

The aim of this paper is to describe the evolving of safeguards implementation in Viet Nam in relation to the cooperation with international partners and the IAEA. It will provide Viet Nam's experience in how to utilize and avoid duplication of international cooperation to be an effective SSAC as it is today.

Which "Key Question" does your Abstract address?

SGI4.2

Which alternative "Key Question" does your Abstract address? (if any)

SGI1.2

Topics

SGI4

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