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Experiences of Vietnam in Applying Information Technology to Streamline and Simplify Its Safeguards Implementation Processes: Benefits and Challenges

In the light of global public concern regarding the misuse of nuclear material and proliferation, the implementation of the IAEA safeguards system is clearly important. Vietnam signed CSA in 1989 and AP in 2007, and they came into force in February 1990 and September 2012 respectively. Since these times, with continued support by the IAEA, Vietnam has fulfilled its obligations under the CSA and AP. By “State as a whole” considerations in the implementation of safeguards for Vietnam, the IAEA had drawn the broader conclusion for Vietnam in 2014 and reaffirmed it in 2015 and 2016. Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS) is State Responsible Authority (SRA) for safeguards in Vietnam. VARANS has to: 1) perform safeguards verification activities for nuclear facilities and LOFs and 2) develop national reports and declarations that are required by the IAEA. These processes initially comprise of collecting and validating the information from the licensees and from VARANS database for license and inspection. The reports and declarations might be submitted in many ways including official email, printed copy, and encrypted channel. In cooperation with the IAEA and the U.S, Vietnam has applied new methods for its safeguards implementation. On one hand, the U.S has supported Vietnam to develop Vietnamese Information Management System (VIMS) in order to facilitate nuclear facilities and LOFs in Vietnam to submit their reports online. By using VIMS, VARANS is able to establish a comprehensive and unified database system; consequently, the processes for verification and report development will be simplified. On the other hand, the IAEA and Vietnam recently use State Declaration Portal (SDP) for the submissions of all reports, declarations, and associated information of Vietnam since the end of 2017. All of these submissions can be done rapidly, securely, and conveniently by using only this portal instead of using official email, printed copy, and encrypted channel. This paper seeks to share the benefits and challenges when applying above tools in Vietnam for the safeguards practical implementation. Based on these experiences, potential options were proposed from the perspective of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards implementation.

Which “Key Question” does your Abstract address?

SGI2.5

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

SGI2.3

Topics

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