

Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials Issues in Tajikistan Ulmas Mirsaidov

Tajikistan has legislation in place which regulates all aspects of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, i.e. radiation protection, safety, physical protection, accounting for and control of nuclear materials and import/export control of strategic goods, including nuclear materials and technology. This legislation provides the basis for Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency of RT (NRSA) and other State authorities to implement Tajikistan safeguards obligations pursuant to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

The State System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material at State is performing by NRSA, the State nuclear regulatory authority of Tajikistan which is an independent Governmental authority and has the right to elaborate and approve regulations and guidance documents, issue licenses for relevant activities, carry out inspections and independently perform its regulatory decisions.

Tajikistan does not have any operational nuclear facility. Eventual reconstruction of the former Argus Research Reactor depends on available financial resources.

Nuclear material is located in the following facilities, nuclear installations and Locations Outside Facilities (LOFs) in Tajikistan and accounted for within the relevant Material Balance Areas (MBAs) and Key Measurement Points (KMPs).

NRSA was established as an independent State nuclear regulatory authority by the Law on radiation protection of 2003. It is responsible for licensing of all activities involving the use of nuclear material. Licenses are issued for a period of 5 or 3 years and can be extended, renewed, cancelled or suspended. Conditions of the license are defined in an attachment to the license.

NRSA elaborates and approves regulations and guidance documents related, inter alia, to accounting for and control of nuclear material and physical protection of nuclear material and facilities.

An "Order of organization of the State systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material and sources of ionizing radiation" approved by the Government Decree No. 499 of October 2013 foresees that an operating organization performs annual physical inventory taking

Tajikistan was one of the first of the post-Soviet Central Asian States to adopt a law on the State control of export of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods (in 1997).

In Tajikistan provided measures against illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and there is presented certain approach in nuclear security issues. During the exploration of nuclear materials more than 500 "orphan" sources were discovered in storages, which were no longer in use or were a legacy from bankrupted companies. Very often managers of newly created enterprises/companies are not aware that such sources exist in the storages under their responsibility.

The joint project of NRSA AS RT and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission was completed by inventorying and creating a database of radioactive sources. The purpose of this project was to inventory all available of IRS (sealed, open, generators and associated equipment) and create the database of them. Within the framework of this project, the inventory of all sources was completed in all regions of Tajikistan.

All the collected data by sources were entered in the database. This database is called RASOD. The uniqueness of the RASOD program is the automatic determination of current activity and the categorization of sources (the classification is made in accordance with the IAEA and the safety manual - No. RS-G-1.9, - Recommended source categories used in general practice). RASOD is an information system that allows the input, storage and processing of IRS data. RASOD is developed for the regulatory bodies on nuclear and radiation safety.

Physical protection measures had been strengthened at the State Institution of "Radioactive Waste Disposal Site" and at the Tajikistan National University, Scientific Institute. A new central control panel of the physical protection system was installed also at the Republic Oncology Centre. Such upgrades were performed mainly through bilateral projects between NRSA and other States and IAEA.

The physical protection system at the SE Tajikredmet includes a combination of several technical features and guards from armed military forces as well as special services.

Gender

Male

State

Tajikistan

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