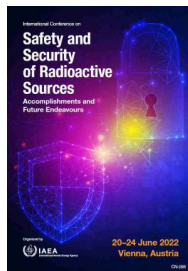


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Virtual Testing: Checking the Physical Protection System of the CCHEN Facilities in the Pandemic Time

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In the framework of the continuous cooperation and support among the Department of Energy of the United States (DOE-US) and their Laboratories associated, and the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission (CCHEN), was carried out a "Virtual Testing" to check the physical protection system (PPS) in the Lo Aguirre Nuclear Center of CCHEN. This kind of activity was planned, due to several international and national restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program of this Virtual Testing was developed between personal of Sandia National Laboratories and CCHEN, to check the PPS in the following facilities: waste storage, military guard, center of alarms (CAS), reactor, irradiator, fabrication of fuel elements and conversion. For this purpose we used a platform for virtual conference, facilitated for Sandia.

The Virtual Testing was carried out in May 2021, in two days, to get check all the components of the PPS. Every day started with an initial meeting to introduce the day activities and to arrange details, and then we went visiting to the facilities to test each physical protection components, the interface with the CAS and response for nuclear security events. At the end of the day, we had a final meeting to debrief the job. Finally, we had a meeting with professionals of Sandia and the Executive Director and Authorities of CCHEN, to present the results and establish a statement of work, SOW. This SOW is running.

The virtual testing was a good way to keep our system in evaluation and improvement, at this pandemic time, however, should be considered a complement and not a replacement of the revision activities face to face.

Country OR Intl. Organization

Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission

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