

Technical and Regulatory Framework for Decommissioning and Implementation of Good Practices in Nuclear Facilities in Nigeria

Nigeria started pursuing nuclear power project after her independence in 1960 following the establishment of the Federal Radiation Protection Service in 1964. This paper underscores the technical and regulatory framework for decommissioning and implementation of good practices in nuclear facilities in Nigeria. Considering the wide variety of facilities involved, whether educational and research facilities, fuel cycle facilities, research reactors or nuclear power plants, Nigeria has developed national legal frameworks that addresses technical issues of siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation and eventual decommissioning that requires the implementation of good practices in nuclear facilities. Decommissioning is the crux of this paper and it will address the legal provisions on administrative and technical measures taken to allow for safe removal of facilities at the end of the life cycle of a nuclear facility. Prominent among these legal frameworks are the: Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission Act, 1976; Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act, 1995, Article 37; Nigeria Basic Ionising Radiation Regulations, 2003, Articles 80-81; Nigerian Radiation Safety in Industrial Radiography Regulations, 2006, Articles 61-62 among others. This paper will equally examine those Regulations that addresses issues of contamination as they facilitate characterization of the waste streams and planning for radiation protection during decommissioning.

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