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Authorized values for radioactive discharges to the environment: a revision

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority oversees regulating and supervising nuclear activity, granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, permits or authorizations, and issuing regulatory standards related to radiological and nuclear safety. In this regard, the ARN has a Regulatory Framework that includes regulations that establish the radiological criteria for the emission of radioactive discharges to the environment.

The ARN carries out an integral verification of the discharges control system of the facilities, to validate the values reported periodically by the licensees, supervising compliance with the authorized discharge values. These values have been initially established for most facilities based on dose stipulated or activity restrictions for different radionuclides, without discriminating the type of facility. The authorized values should reflect the requirements of a well-designed practice and allow for a margin of operational flexibility.

In 2012, with the imminent commissioning of Unit II of the Atucha Nuclear Power Plant, it was decided to review the methodology for deriving the authorized discharge values at different facilities, as well as the criteria for considering the relevant radionuclides to be reported. It was established to consider the particularities of each facility when deriving the values mentioned.

In this paper it will be presented the methodology adopted since 2014, after two years of work, its successive implementation at NPPs and the analysis of the change introduced.

Primary author: ALVAREZ, Daniela (Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear)

Co-author: MEDICI, Marcela Alejandra (Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear)

Presenter: ALVAREZ, Daniela (Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear)

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