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Canadian Regulator's application of lessons learned in updating the regulatory framework to incorporate sustainability into decision making

As Canada's nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has modernized its regulatory framework to take into consideration past practices, and lessons learned to enhance safety while allowing flexibility to adapt to and support emerging technologies. The updates included life cycle management, planning of decommissioning activities and end states as early as possible and in the design phase for new facilities, to ensure alignment with Canada's waste policies and international best practices.

The CNSC's regulatory framework ensures safe decommissioning and remediation with consideration for the protection of the environment for future generations. The modernized regulatory framework also contains requirements for emerging projects, such as Small Modular Reactors, at the design and planning stages. Requirements have been introduced into the framework for licensees to have in place a waste management plan before moving into operations, and a consideration of the decommissioning strategy and its end states at the planning and design phases. CNSC representatives will provide specific examples to demonstrate the lessons learned from Canada's historical projects, and how these have contributed to the modernization of the framework.

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