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NEA Activities to Support SMR Safety Assessment

The mission of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is to assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Through the activities of its different standing technical committees and joint projects, the NEA is advancing scientific knowledge and consensus building on key safety aspects to facilitate the deployment of safe small modular reactors (SMR).

In particular, the Expert Group on Small Modular Reactors (EGSMR) was created under the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) to handle safety challenges and support the development of solid scientific bases essential to demonstrate the safety of the advanced and innovative technologies used for SMRs. In 2023, the EGSMR has published a report which provides research recommendations to co-ordinate efforts by the CSNI and other NEA committees and to foster international cooperation on SMR safety. Consistently, different NEA working groups and joint research projects have considered the SMR topic in their reflections and programmes of work.

The proposed contribution aims at illustrating the different efforts led by the Nuclear Energy Agency and sharing the related results to support, from a safety point of view, the assessment and deployment of small modular reactors. The paper is proposing ways to prioritising NEA efforts on safety issues commensurate with their significance.

Country OR International Organization

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YES

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