



Contribution ID: 50

Type: Oral

Regulatory considerations for SMR application: The case of South Korea

Small module reactors (SMRs) are in the spotlight worldwide as a means of carbon neutrality primarily because of their safety and economic feasibility. South Korea is in the process of developing an innovative SMR(iSMR), with a licensing goal of 2028. It is necessary to reorganize regulatory requirements and improve the framework as the development of domestic SMRs, including iSMR, increases rapidly. For the above reasons, the KINS has promoted regulatory improvement R&D (2022-2028) aimed at developing a safety regulatory framework specialized for SMRs and a pre-licensing safety review (PLR) program. In addition, the Korean regulatory bodies (KINS and NSSC) have prepared PLR procedures and policy statements for SMR regulation to improve SMR licensing efficiency. Thus, this paper suggests the consideration of regulators reflecting changes in the regulatory environment to SMR through the current status and readiness of regulatory activities for SMR.

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Track Classification: Topical Group B: Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks: Track 7: Regulatory Considerations for SMRs