

Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Experience and its Relation with Technical Supporting Organizations

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The Egyptian Nuclear law No. 7 was issued in 2010. According to this law the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (NRRA) was established as an independent body, reporting directly to the prime minister and having the responsibility of all regulatory functions for nuclear and radiation facilities and activities (with the exception of x-ray for medical applications) as well as safeguards and security. Previously the regulatory functions were conducted since 1984 through the National Center for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control which was one of the 4 centers of the Atomic Energy Authority. This Center had a more or less a research nature, and the regulatory functions were carried out through specialized committees. The new independent Regulatory Body established an organizational structure including specialized sectors addressing the main regulatory functions in addition to the research institute. This research institute has actually the main expertise which constitute the main competent personnel and can be considered as an internal Technical Supporting Organization, while the other regulatory sectors are now in the phase of building its personnel. The challenge now is first to direct the research more toward regulatory research and second to get the best use of the competency acquired in the research institute to fulfill the regulatory responsibilities of the NRRA. The nuclear safety experience was mainly in the field of research reactors and the radiation sources as well as safeguards. Egypt is now embarking on nuclear power plants for electricity generation. Therefore it is of outmost importance to raise the competence of its regulatory and research personnel in order to be able to conduct its regulatory responsibilities. This is done through self assessment, a Systematic Approach for Training, contacts with several regulator bodies and technical supporting organizations both locally and externally as well as regulatory networking. Many technical cooperation and research projects are implemented with the International Energy Agency, with workshops, training fellowships and scientific visits and many experts have been consulted on several occasions. Egypt is a member of IAEA Steering Committee of the Human Resources for Regulatory Bodies. The NRRA is involved in review and assessment work for site permit and environmental impact of the nuclear power plant to be constructed at El-Dabba. For this purpose it may be necessary to get the help of technical support organizations and some external experts. NRRA is following the IAEA guidance in choosing external experts in order to get an independent and reliable advice, taking into consideration that the final decision responsibility lies with the regulatory body.

Country or International Organisation

Egypt

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