Contribution ID: **137** Type: **Oral Presentation**

PNRA Role for Ensuring Safety of Research Reactors

Thursday, 19 November 2015 11:30 (20 minutes)

Operating experience of research reactors in Pakistan is spread over a span of five decades starting with the operation of Pakistan Research Reactor-1 (PARR-1) in 1965. Research reactors are being used in Pakistan for the purpose of training and production of radioisotopes. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) is entrusted to ensure that a high level of safety is maintained through an inclusive and robust regulatory oversight process. The objective is achieved by strict vigilance through authorization, review & assessment, regulatory inspections and enforcement processes to ensure that safety requirements are fulfilled. PNRA through an effective regulatory framework ensures and verifies that activities are performed in full compliance with the regulatory requirements. PNRA is currently regulating two research reactors i.e. Pakistan Research Reactor-1 (PARR-1), a swimming pool type reactor with a power level of 10 MW, and Pakistan Research Reactor-2 (PARR-2), a tank-in pool type Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) of 30 KW. PNRA ensures that safety is maintained at research reactors through fulfilling safety requirements at par with international codes and standards. In the last few years, PNRA has revalidated the operating licences of research reactors on the basis of periodic safety reviews. In this paper, regulatory activities for ensuring safety and major challenges faced while regulating research reactors have been highlighted

Organization

Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority

Country

Pakistan

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Session Classification: Safety of Research Reactors

Track Classification: Safety of Research Reactors