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EU Member States



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Country specific reports

Starting with June 1, 2011, all the operators of nuclear power plants in the EU had to review the response of their nuclear plants to extreme situations, in particular operators had to check and improve mitigation measures available after a potential loss of safety functions, caused by any reason. That includes the loss of electrical power or loss of ultimate heat sink for heat removal from the reactor, the management of loss of core cooling functions in their reactors as well as in spent fuel pools and the maintenance of containment integrity.

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Background and Specifications

On May 24, 2011, ENSREG, including the European Commission, reached a consensus on the scope and modalities of the "stress tests". At its meeting on October 11, 2011, ENSREG agreed upon a procedure on peer reviews of "stress tests" as well as on a working paper on the transparency aspects of EU "stress tests".

[Joint Statement of ENSREG and the European Commission on Stress Tests and Peer Review Process on 26 April 2012](#)

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EU stress tests and follow-up

The European Council of 24/25 March, 2011, requested that the safety of all EU nuclear plants should be reviewed, on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). These "stress tests" are defined as targeted reassessments of the safety margins of nuclear power plants, developed by ENSREG, including the European Commission.

As security threats are not part of the mandate of ENSREG a two-track process has been developed.

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Presentations



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Venue

Charlemagne building of the European Commission

170 Rue de la Loi / Boulevard Charlemagne
1040 Brussels

Room Alcide de Gasperi (2nd floor)

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Environmental monitoring

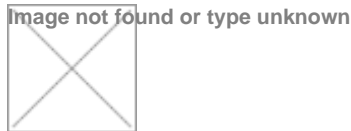
Monitoring of discharges

The operation of nuclear facilities generally results in the discharge of radioactivity to the

surrounding environment. Nuclear site operators are required to control the amount of radioactivity released into the environment. The national regulator puts controls on the amount and type of radioactivity released into the environment, including imposing upper limits on radioactive discharges.

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Nuclear Safety in Europe - Fourth Regulatory Conference



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Waste management routes under research

Disposal involves the isolation of radioactive wastes in a suitable facility without the intention to retrieve and with minimal requirements of long-term surveillance or maintenance. Internationally, there is general agreement that deep disposal in geological formations, below 300m represents the safest and most sustainable option for the long-term management of high-level waste and spent fuel subject to direct disposal. The concept has evolved over the last few years to incorporate extended monitoring and the possibility for its retrieval if required in the future.

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Existing waste management routes

For very low level waste, low level waste and short-lived intermediate level waste, there is international consensus that this can be safely disposed of in near-surface facilities at a depth of no more than 30 m. The underlying assumption is that deposited radioactive waste will decay to background levels before institutional control is lost (within about 300 years).

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