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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 opeartion 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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Categorisation of radioactive waste

Radioactive waste means radioactive material in gaseous, liquid or solid form for which no further use is foreseen [definition given by the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management]

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Management of spent fuel

Spent fuel is the name given to nuclear fuel that has been removed from a nuclear power or research reactor following irradiation. It is a mixture of plutonium, uranium and waste materials and is no longer usable as fuel. It is extremely radioactive and generates a large amount of heat and must be carefully managed. Individual Member States take different approaches to the long-term management of spent fuel, but all involve a period of interim storage at the nuclear power plant or research reactor site following the removal of the fuel from the reactor.

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