ENSREG
European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group
Stress Test Peer Review Board

March Update of the Stress Test Peer Review

Background

Transparency and public involvement have been objectives of the stress tests and peer review from the beginning. The ENSREG and the Peer Review Board hosted a public meeting in January 2012 to inform the stakeholders and seek comments. There were public comments noting that between the public meeting in January and the publication of the final report in April there would be no information provided to the public. In response, the Peer Review Board decided to post an update once a month on the ENSREG website in an effort to improve transparency and to better inform the public. The first update was published for February. This is the update for March.

March Update

The February update described how the overall peer review process included three key phases. The first phase is the desktop review, which was completed in January. The second phase is the topical review, which was completed in February. Overall the topical review was a success. An enormous amount of information was shared among the various reviewers. The work done in the topical review was in preparation for the last phase in the peer review process, the country review.

Six teams of eight reviewers were assembled and on 11 March 2012, the first country review began. Over the next three weeks all 17 countries were visited and the reviews were completed. In each country, a nuclear power plant was visited. Five of the teams conducted three country reviews and the sixth team conducted two country reviews. The teams were made up of six experts nominated by national regulatory authorities, an expert from the European Commission, and a rapporteur from the European Commission. To prevent any conflict of interest, the reviewers could not originate from the country which the team was reviewing. Teams were constructed taking into account the preferences of each Member State in peer reviewing the report of other Member States. The composition of the teams and the nationality of the team members can be found on the ENSREG website (see Background and Specifications). In order to guarantee rigour and objectivity, the national regulator under review was asked to allow access to all necessary information by the Peer Review team, subject to the required security clearance procedures. Staff and facilities were also made available to the visiting team to discuss issues.

The purpose of the visit was to perform a more detailed examination of the issues identified during the earlier stages of the process. A draft Country Report was sent to each country at the end of the topical reviews phase in February. Mail and phone discussions on the topics identified in the draft reports started before the country review took place in order to prepare the country visit and ensure full mutual understanding of the topics to be reviewed. The teams worked to resolve the questions identified earlier in the process and document the conclusions of the review in the Final Country Report. Additionally, the results and conclusions of the country reviews will be taken into consideration as the final report of the peer review is finalized in April 2012.

The last six country reviews were completed on 29 March 2012. The Final Country Reports will be included as annexes in the final report of the peer review which will be submitted to ENSREG for approval on 25 April. The final report, with the Final Country Report annexes, will be published on the ENSREG website and the results will be presented and discussed at a second public meeting in Brussels in May. The results of the peer review will be included as part of a report prepared by the European Commission for the European Council meeting of 28 – 29 June.