

Impact of Covid-19 on nuclear: consultant's view

Two phases of Covid-19 :

2020: concerns, uncertainty --> meandering responses

2021: restrictions, rules in place --> learned how to cope

Operators: Concerns re. availability of operators, other staff

Restrictions on presence on NPP sites, impacting O&M

Remote work for tech staff; extended operators' shifts

Extending outage schedules; less staff on site

Postponement of non essential modifications

Supply chain, transport issues causing (some) delays

Action plans early, focus on staff/material availability

Generation was not substantially reduced

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Regulators: Challenges on tech means for remote work, info flow
Staff resources, interaction/collaboration & well being
Difficulties to implement actions requiring physical presence, e.g. exams, site inspections, public hearings
Validity of certain licences extended (MCR operators); other licences renewed, issued remotely
Relaxation of rules (e.g. periodic check) allowed per Leg.
Site inspections put on hold; remote/VC meetings

No evidence of safety decline due to “weaker” oversight
Industry’s own responsibility to comply with rules/regs