



European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group

ENSREG Response after Fukushima Event

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First Response after 11 March

- Shock, worries, fear ...
- Two days later the term **stress tests of NPPs** was invented by politicians
- In the beginning there was no idea how such stress test should look like
 - “Experts will prepare them until June...”

First formal steps

- 15 March – first meeting, very emotional
- 21 March – Meeting of EU Ministers for Energy
- 25 March – EU Council requests stress tests to be prepared by ENSREG and the Commission

Preparation of Stress Tests

- Beneficial coincidence:
 - Regular WENRA meeting scheduled for 22-23 March
 - Regular ENSREG meeting scheduled for 12 May
- WENRA started developing stress test methodology
- Very open process, also industry was involved
- On 7 May proposal submitted to ENSREG

Searching for consensus

- Open issue: What to do with terrorist attacks?
- On 12 and 13 May after 20 hours discussion the text prepared, to which nobody objected
- D and AT asked for scrutiny reservation until 18 May – silent procedure
- By 24 May the consensus was finally reached and Stress Tests methodology was made public



Declaration of ENSREG

ENSREG and the European Commission have worked intensively to provide a response to the request of the European Council on 25 March 2011.

Notably, they have developed the scope and modalities for comprehensive risk and safety assessments of EU nuclear power plants. On 13 May 2011, ENSREG and the Commission have agreed the following:

1. In the light of the Fukushima accident, comprehensive risk and safety assessments undertaken by the operators under the supervision of the national regulatory authorities of nuclear power plants will start at the latest by 1 June 2011. These assessments will be based on the specifications in annex 1 largely prepared by WENRA and will cover extraordinary triggering events like earthquakes and flooding, and the consequences of any other initiating events potentially leading to multiple loss of safety functions requiring severe accident management. The methodology of these assessments is covered by annex 1. Human and organisational factors should be part of these assessments;
2. Risks due to security threats are not part of the mandate of ENSREG and the prevention and response to incidents due to malevolent or terrorists acts (including aircraft crashes) involve different competent authorities, hence it is proposed that the Council establishes a specific working group composed of Member States and associating the European Commission, within their respective competences, to deal with that issues. The mandate and modalities of work of this group would be defined through Council Conclusions¹.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 above contribute to a comprehensive risk and safety assessment.



Annex I

EU “Stress tests” specifications

Introduction

Considering the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan, the European Council of March 24th and 25th declared that “the safety of all EU nuclear plants should be reviewed, on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk assessment (“stress tests”); the European Nuclear Safety Regulatory Group (ENSREG) and the Commission are invited to develop as soon as possible the scope and modalities of these tests in a coordinated framework in the light of the lessons learned from the accident in Japan and with the full involvement of Member States, making full use of available expertise (notably from the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association); the assessments will be conducted by independent national authorities and through peer review; their outcome and any necessary subsequent measures that will be taken should be shared with the Commission and within ENSREG and should be made public; the European Council will assess initial findings by the end of 2011, on the basis of a report from the Commission”.

On the basis of the proposals made by WENRA at their plenary meeting on the 12-13 of May, the European Commission and ENSREG members decided to agree upon “an initial independent regulatory technical definition of a “stress test” and how it should be applied to nuclear facilities across Europe”. This is the purpose of this document.

Stress Tests Highlights

- Terrorist issues to be analysed separately
- Operators must analyse and report:
 - Earthquakes and flooding
 - Issues of loss of power, ultimate heat sink or combination of both as a consequence of any event
 - Severe accident management issues
- National Regulators will summarise national reports
- European Commission reports to the Council by 8 December
- Peer Reviews next year



Peer Reviews

- Review teams with up to 7 members
- WENRA task force works on the methodology
- Open process of commenting and improvements
- By October ENSREG should formalise the process
- Reviews to be performed in the first half of 2012

What will we get from Stress Tests?

- Stress Tests = Periodic Safety Review
- Improvements?
 - For sure:
 - Reanalyses of external threats
 - Improved Severe Accident Management Guidelines
 - Improved hardware (pumps, power supplies, fire fighting equipment etc.)
 - Closures of NPPs?
 - Would be a surprise:
 - Were we really missing so much in the past!?