

Topic 2: Effective Use of Convention of Nuclear Safety (CNS) and Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (JC)

External Advisors Meeting
16 May 2022

Nuclear Regulation Authority Commission



1. Background and Current Situation

Background:

- As a contracting party of CNS and JC since 1986 and 2003 respectively, Japanese regulatory body takes initiative in participating in CNS/JC review meetings every three years.
- Although there have been challenges and suggestions that are identified through the review meetings which could be informative for Japanese regulations, they are left out without systematic adoption approach to Japanese regulation.



1. Background and Current Situation

Current Situation:

- CNS/JC review process is as follows:
 - 1) Preparation of country report
 - 2) Preparation of answers to questions from other countries
 - 3) Participation in the review meetings, including the review meetings of other countries
 - 4) Capturing lessons learnt from the review meetings
 - 5) Examination of feasibility in Japanese regulations
 - 6) Adoption in regulations

- At present, it is considered that the NRA is doing fairly well for above items from 1) to 3), however there is a lot that needs to be improved for items after 4).



1. Background and Current Situation

Current Situation:

- The most recent review meeting was the 6th of JC, which was held between 21 May and 1 June 2018.
- Japanese delegation members to JC, individually participated in review meetings of other countries, however there is no systematic approach in the NRA to examine information that was captured by those individuals.

**Challenges (definition from JC document: A challenge is a difficult issue for the Contracting Party. It may be a demanding undertaking (beyond day-to-day activities); or a weakness that needs to be remediated.)*

**Suggestions (definition from JC document: A Suggestion is an area for improvement. It is an action needed to improve the implementation of the obligations of the Convention.)*



1. Background and Current Situation

- Challenges/suggestions identified through the 6th JC review meeting of Japan are;

Challenges

- a) *Management of waste in Fukushima Daiichi plants: implement solutions for treatment and storage of on-site RW as well as management of liquid waste, especially tritiated water.*
- b) *Achieving the risk reduction program for Fukushima Daiichi plants as planned.*
- c) *Development of Regulatory Framework for Intermediate Depth Disposal.*
- d) *Revision of Regulatory Framework for Dry Cask in the NPP site.*

Suggestions

- a) *Develop milestones and plans of deep disposal facilities (set more detailed milestones on the process including strategies for public communication, regulatory process, and related requirements).*



1. Background and Current Situation

- On the summary report issued at the end of all review meeting scheduled for the 6th JC, overarching issues resulting from cumulative discussions were identified as follows:
 1. Implementation of national strategies for spent fuel and radioactive waste management
 2. Safety implications of long term management of spent fuel
 3. Staffing, staff development, funding and other Human Resources areas
 4. Strengthening regulatory effectiveness to meet the challenges associated with the implementation of national strategies
 5. Linking long term management and disposal of disused sealed radioactive sources
 6. Remediation of legacy sites and facilities
 7. International and regional cooperation
- These were reported to the NRA Commission and would not be specifically reviewed, and only state any actual measures taken in implementing these issues in the next country report of JC.



2. NRA's concerns

NRA's concerns are:

- There should be systematic approach for the challenges and suggestions identified through the review meeting of Japan as well as of other countries, to collect, examine and share various opinions discussed for the purpose of adoption to Japanese regulations.
- What kind of framework is suggested for the systematic approach to gain the most benefit from the review meetings of two conventions? For example, using an existing Technical Information Review Meeting* to examine feasibility in Japanese regulations after thorough collection of information through the review meetings.

*Technical Information Review Meeting: Since March 2013, the NRA has held a Technical Information Review Meeting consisting of one NRA Commissioner and the relevant section chiefs of the NRA, about once every two months with the aim of organizing and sharing the necessity of adoptable information on accidents and troubles at nuclear facilities in Japan and overseas as well as on the latest scientific and technical knowledge in regulations.