

IRRS Good Practices
The Global Safety Regime
(Module 2)

Sharing of operating experience and regulatory experience

Canada – Initial Mission

Mission Date: September 2019

Good Practice

The Canada Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) had a comprehensive system for collecting, analysing and sharing regulatory experience feedback.

Observation

The CNSC had a very comprehensive system for collecting, analysing and sharing regulatory experience feedback. The regulatory experience feedback was disseminated similarly as operating experience feedback. The CNSC shared its experience on the management of regulatory experience feedback actively with other domestic and international organisations.

Basis

GSR Part 1 Requirement 15 states that “*The regulatory body shall make arrangements for analysis to be carried out to identify lessons to be learned from operating experience and regulatory experience, including experience in other States, and for the dissemination of the lessons learned and for their use by authorized parties, the regulatory body and other relevant authorities*”.

IAEA Comments/Highlights

The CNSC used regulatory experience feedback through a lessons-learned approach (regulatory oversight and support) that was well ingrained across its organization. CNSC had a comprehensive system for collecting, analysing and sharing regulatory experience feedback. The Commission had several policies and practices that fostered the use of regulatory experience for the continuous improvement of the regulatory framework, such as the Strategic Planning Framework and the Regulatory Framework Steering Committee (RFSC). CNSC used many sources for regulatory and operating experience feedback which enabled the Commission to implement the necessary improvements. These sources included inspection reports, audits,

evaluations, self-assessments, external peer reviews and conferences, MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with fellow international regulators, Regulatory Framework Consultations etc.

The CNSC did not only learn from nuclear regulators, but also from non-nuclear ones by performing its own assessment of the incident to draw lessons learned from it. CNSC also worked together with the relevant authorities to assess common deficiencies and, in a few cases, CNSC performed joint inspections with the relevant authority.

CNSC participated in the Community of Federal Regulators (CFR) in recognition of the opportunities to learn from other Canadian regulators as well as to share information and lessons learned.

CNSC had a MOU with US NRC to share regulatory experience e.g. on package design approval.