

IRRS Good Practices

Regulations and Guidance (Module 9)

Generic Issues

Sweden – Follow-up Mission

Mission Date: May 2016

Good Practice

The prompt and integrated approach of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) to establish a consistent and comprehensive regulation taking into account international standards and good practices.

Observation

The comprehensiveness and the expediency by which the ongoing regulation update projects were carried out using an integrated approach and taking into account international standards and good practices were commended.

Basis

GSR part 1 Requirement 2 states that “The government shall establish and maintain an *appropriate governmental, legal and regulatory framework for safety within which responsibilities are clearly allocated*”.

IAEA Comments/Highlights

SSM presented a new structure for the regulations describing the three levels of regulatory control under the law and ordinances and explained that all SSM regulations would be included in that new structure. SSM had decided to create supporting documents describing the rationale behind the regulations and would include formal interpretations of the regulatory sections.

Both projects used IAEA standards and good practices of other countries as input and would also be used to implement the WENRA Safety Reference Levels, the European Directive for Nuclear Safety and the Basic Safety Standards. The projects were expected to be completed by February 2018.

SSM explained that the updated regulations for decommissioning would be ready for the decommissioning projects resulting from the announced closure of four nuclear power plants in the years following the IRRS mission. The ongoing regulation update projects would provide for a consistent and comprehensive set of regulations that would enhance the stability and

consistency of the Swedish regulatory framework. The comprehensiveness and the expediency by which the update projects were carried out were commended by the IRRS team.

Australia – Initial Mission

Mission Date: November 2018

Good Practice

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), in conjunction with State and Territory regulatory bodies, established comprehensive guidance that addressed existing exposure situations including the methodology to be used for the identification of legacy sites, the establishment of appropriate reference levels and explaining their application to stakeholders. The guide also addressed the transition from an emergency situation to an existing exposure situation and the strategies for effective management of legacy situations.

Observation

Radiation Protection in Existing Exposure Situations (RPS G-2) and Radiation Protection in Emergency Exposure Situations (RPS G-3, draft) effectively engaged key stakeholders and provided a comprehensive national framework for effective management of emergency and existing exposure situations.

Basis

GSR Part 3, para 5.3, states that *“The government shall include in the legal and regulatory framework for protection and safety (see Section 2) provision for the management of existing exposure situations. The government, in the legal and regulatory framework, as appropriate:*

- (a) Shall specify the exposure situations that are included in the scope of existing exposure situations;*
- (b) Shall specify the general principles underlying the protection strategies developed to reduce exposure when remedial actions and protective actions have been determined to be justified;*
- (c) Shall assign responsibilities for the establishment and implementation of protection strategies to the regulatory body and to other relevant authorities and, as appropriate, to registrants, licensees and other parties involved in the implementation of remedial actions and protective actions;*
- (d) Shall provide for the involvement of interested parties in decisions regarding the development and implementation of protection strategies, as appropriate.”*

IAEA Comments/Highlights

ARPANSA, in conjunction with State and Territory regulatory bodies, developed a holistic framework for the management and control of existing exposure situations. The guidance was found in the *Guide for Radiation Protection in Existing Exposure situations* (RPS G-2) which aligned with the latest International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and IAEA recommendations (GSR Part 3).

The guide provided coherent and qualitative guidance on defining legacy and other existing exposure situations including reference levels. A methodology was developed to establish site specific reference levels for further remediation and transitioning from emergency to existing exposure situations.

The guide also established guidance consistent with IAEA safety standards, addressing the management of existing exposure situations including the recognition, identification of reference levels and explaining their application to stakeholders.

Finland – Initial Mission

Mission Date: 3 to 14 October 2022

Good Practice

STUK has developed a web-based searchable tool “SAMMIO” which provides access to timely information regarding the radiation legislation, regulations and guides for licensees and licence applicants including STUK’s expectations on its practical application.

Observation

STUK has developed and published a web-based searchable tool, SAMMIO which provides licensees and the general public with information about the requirements under the Radiation Act. Any search result includes the specific requirement, its justification and further guidance including STUK’s expectations on its practical application.

Basis

GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1) Requirement 34, states “*The regulatory body shall notify interested parties and the public of the principles and associated criteria for safety established in its regulations and guides, and shall make its regulations and guides available.*”

IAEA Comments/Highlights

STUK (Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority in Finland) has developed and published a web-based tool, SAMMIO which provides licensees and others, including the general public, with information about the requirements under SätL (Radiation Act). SAMMIO allows users to search by type of radiation practice, topic areas and free search words and to save the results of individual searches. The search result includes the targeted requirement, its rationale and further guidance including STUK’s expectations on its practical application. The guidance is regularly updated to ensure it is current and accurate. Users of SAMMIO can send feedback to STUK. SAMMIO enables the provision of timely, accurate and current information to licensees or applicants without the need for further engagement with STUK, thus improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory body.