

INTRODUCTION AND MAIN CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the government of Hungary, an IAEA Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) of international experts visited Paks Nuclear Power Plant from 27 October - 13 November 2014. The purpose of the mission was to review operating practices in the areas of Management Organization and Administration; Training and Qualification; Operations; Maintenance; Technical Support; Operating Experience, Radiation Protection, Chemistry, Emergency Preparedness and Planning and Severe Accident Management. In addition, an exchange of technical experience and knowledge took place between the experts and their plant counterparts on how the common goal of excellence in operational safety could be further pursued.

The Paks OSART mission was the 180th in the programme, which began in 1982. The team was composed of experts from Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the IAEA staff members and observers from Brazil, Slovak Republic and IAEA. The collective nuclear power experience of the team was approximately 310 years.

Before visiting the plant, the team studied information provided by the IAEA and the Paks plant to familiarize themselves with the plant's main features and operating performance, staff organization and responsibilities, and important programmes and procedures. During the mission, the team reviewed many of the plant's programmes and procedures in depth, examined indicators of the plant's performance, observed work in progress, and held in-depth discussions with plant personnel.

Throughout the review, the exchange of information between the OSART experts and plant personnel was very open, professional and productive. Emphasis was placed on assessing the effectiveness of operational safety rather than simply the content of programmes. The conclusions of the OSART team were based on the plant's performance compared with IAEA Safety Standards

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The OSART team concluded that the managers of Paks NPP are committed to improving the operational safety and reliability of their plant. The team found good areas of performance, including the following:

- The plant has a comprehensive radiation protection monitoring system which consists of Release and Environmental Monitoring Subsystem, Meteorological tower, Dosimetry Control Room with video-graphic panel display.
- The new Slab/block Lifting equipment for hermetic slab/block covering in reactor hall, reduces the risks of personal injury and equipment failure due to dropping.
- The plant has developed a mobile DC power supply that can be used in the event of failure of a plant safety battery or potentially in case of a severe accident.

A number of proposals for improvements in operational safety were offered by the team. The most significant proposals include the following:

- The plant management system does not allow having an integrated view of all aspects related to safety, encompassing plant staff and contractors.

- Plant personnel do not always feel accountable and responsible for reporting deficiencies of systems and components which are not in their direct technical area. In some cases observed, the threshold for identifying and reporting deficiencies was not low enough.
- In the work control process, the planning and prioritization arrangements are not based on a graded approach to safety.
- The plant operating experience program regarding screening, use of operating experience and effectiveness reviews, is not effectively implemented.

The plant's senior management expressed a determination to address the areas identified for improvement and indicated a willingness to accept a follow up visit in about eighteen months.