



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada



Canada's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

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THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION



Our Mandate

- Ensure that the use of nuclear energy and materials will not pose an unreasonable risk for the health and safety of:
 - Canadians workers
 - the Canadian public
 - the environment
- Implement Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public

Safety

Security

Safeguards



RESPONSE - REGULATORY BODY



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):

- Activated the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) on March 15, 2020
- Deactivated the BCP on April 6, 2020 and established a “new normal”
- Reviewed existing regulatory and operational processes embedded in its integrated management system (IMS)
- Continued to deliver on the mandate

AGILITY AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE



RESPONSE - LICENSEE ACTIONS



Implemented measures to protect:

- **Workers:** physical distancing and enhanced screening measures
- **Facilities:** minimal staffing complement and establishment of protective measures
- **Environment:** ongoing monitoring to verify compliance to occupational and environmental standards
- **Public:** provided donations (food and monetary) along with supplying some Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to local health communities





REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE



The CNSC's values framework is guiding all decisions

- Leadership for safety is essential to be a trusted regulator
- Emergency preparedness is a corporate priority at all times
- Safety, physical and mental health of employees is crucial
 - front line management and executives are visible and accessible to staff 24/7
 - empathy is applied to consider everyone's unique situation

“Canada has a comprehensive and robust regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety covering current facilities and activities. The CNSC strives to continuously upgrade its regulatory framework to address new challenges and upcoming technologies.”

2019 IRRS Report to Canada

SAFETY IS OUR OVERARCHING PRIORITY



INNOVATION AND AGILITY



Modernization of Inspections

- Initiated remote and desktop inspections for power reactor facilities
- Ensured PPE and logistics for site inspections were addressed
- Exchanging lessons learned and experiences with other regulators
- Contacted licensees of major nuclear facilities and activities to ensure that BCPs had been implemented

Regulatory Oversight

- Verified that measures to secure radioactive materials, workers and the public are in place
- Maintained provisions for licence amendments and renewals
- Demonstrated regulatory flexibility without compromising safety as well as regulatory readiness to oversee new technologies



LEADERSHIP AND TRANSPARENCY



Stakeholder Engagement

- Maintained contact with industry, stakeholders (e.g., Indigenous communities), the public and international regulators
- Virtual proceedings of our Commission tribunal are projected for mid-June to maintain openness and transparency

Safety Culture and Mental Health

- Executive management regularly engaged staff through virtual town hall meetings
- Services were identified to support staff's ongoing mental and physical health



PANDEMIC EFFECT ON INNOVATION



The successful adoption of new digital tools to support a new way of working is paramount

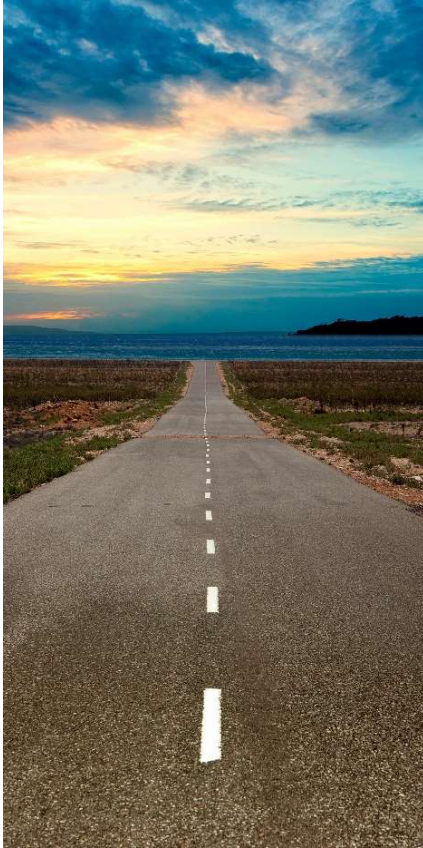
Regulators should focus on such areas as:

- Remote monitoring equipment (cameras) in compliance verification/inspection activities
- Use of data analytics to analyse data in a more systematic fashion
- Dealing with requests for regulatory flexibility
 - performance based and risk-informed requirements rather than rigid rule-based approaches to regulation
- Communications and engagement to maintain and strengthen public trust

Successful organizations will need to be resilient, agile, and adapt quickly to the “new normal.”



CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS



“Way Forward” framework

- Risk assessment and COVID Dashboards
- “Return to workplace strategy” and the “new normal”
- Scenario planning and corporate strategic review
- Identify opportunities to improve communication, messaging and information transfer
- Incorporate lessons learned from the pandemic to ensure the CNSC emerges stronger

International and domestic collaboration

Collaboration and learning from shared regulatory and operational experience.

SMART, TIMELY AND DURABLE ADAPTATIVE MEASURES



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