

**STATE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY**

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**Dana Drábová**

Chairman

Prague, 29 November 2012

Dear Director General Amano,

I am pleased to provide you, on behalf of the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS), a second Progress Report responding to your request for the CSS contained in your letter of July 7, 2011: "to review the IAEA safety standards, and report back to me within the next 12 months, with recommendations for strengthening the standards, where gaps would be identified, and for further promoting their universal application".

As I mentioned in my previous letter to you of 31 May 2012, this action is also addressed by the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety (GOV/2011/59-GC(55)/14), and is detailed as follows:

*Review and strengthen IAEA Safety Standards and improve their implementation*

- The Commission on Safety Standards and the IAEA Secretariat to review, and revise as necessary using the existing process in a more efficient manner, the relevant IAEA Safety Standards in a prioritized sequence. [A footnote clarifies that this review could include, inter alia, regulatory structure, emergency preparedness and response, nuclear safety and engineering (site selection and evaluation, assessment of extreme natural hazards including their combined effects, management of severe accidents, station blackout, loss of heat sink, accumulation of explosive gases, nuclear fuel behaviour and ways to ensure the safety of spent fuel storage).]

Let me just recall that, with a view to implementing this action, a first draft of a Safety Standards Review Plan was prepared by the Secretariat in the summer of 2011 and submitted to the CSS at its meeting in November 2011. The Safety Standards Review Plan describes the methodology for conducting the review of the IAEA Safety Standards in terms of scope, prioritization, topical approach and process, the timeline for the review, and possible options for the subsequent revision of those safety standards for which the review concludes that there are issues to be addressed. At the CSS meeting in March 2012 the progress report summarizing the results of the first review of the IAEA Safety Standards after consideration by the Safety Standards Committees in December 2011 and January 2012 was discussed in detail, and then presented to you.

At its last meeting in October 2012, the CSS discussed further progress achieved on the review of the IAEA Safety Requirements, particularly on the activities being carried out to take into account additional reports from different sources, among others the results of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The intent is to complement the systematic analysis by incorporating into the review process any additional lessons identified in these reports. Another source of information for strengthening the IAEA Safety Standards are the world-wide performed safety reassessments (in some countries or regions called “stress-tests”) which Member States and their national regulatory bodies carried out after the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant accident. The Agency has supported the Member States in this important work by developing a methodology for the review of existing safety evaluations and robustness of the design basis, including the treatment of external hazards. The CSS recognizes the determination and readiness of Member States in carrying out such detailed reassessments and the resulting important contribution to nuclear safety. In this context, the CSS members also underlined the importance of periodic safety review and recalled that there is already very good IAEA guidance available in this area.

As an important milestone, the CSS approved the document outline DS462 for the concomitant revision, through addenda of five Safety Requirements, namely the General Safety Requirements GSR Part 1 on Governmental, Legal and Regulatory Framework for Safety, GSR Part 4 on Safety Assessment for Facilities and Activities

and the Specific Safety Requirements NS-R-3 on Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations, SSR-2/1 on Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Design and SSR-2/2 on Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Commissioning and Operation. These revisions will be prepared in parallel to the on-going revision of the General Safety Requirements GS-R-2 on Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (DS457) and GS-R-3 on The Management System for Facilities and Activities (DS456).

The Commission also discussed the approach for the corresponding review of the IAEA Safety Guides. In this context, the CSS proposed that a prioritization process be put in place and a pilot study for a few Safety Guides be initiated in order to test whether the methodology adopted for the safety requirements could be applied to/adapted for the review of the Safety Guides.

The Commission wishes to re-emphasize its main conclusion, which is that the review has confirmed so far the adequacy of the current Safety Requirements. The review revealed no significant areas of weakness, and just a small set of amendments were proposed to strengthen the requirements and facilitate their implementation. The CSS believes that the IAEA Safety Standards should be enhanced mainly through the well-established review and revision process that has been in use for some years. At the same time, CSS members highlighted that the basis for the review and revision of the IAEA Safety Standards should not be limited to the lessons of the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident. This basis should also include experience from elsewhere and information gained from advances in research and development. The CSS also stressed that greater attention needs to be paid to the implementation of IAEA safety standards by and in Member States.

On another aspect, the Commission also noted the considerable progress made in enhancing the integration and consistency of the processes for developing and reviewing the IAEA Safety Standards and the Nuclear Security Series publications.

It will be my pleasure to report to you again with a third progress report after the CSS meeting in March 2013.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



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Chairperson of the Commission  
on Safety Standards

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