

Regulatory and Safety Infrastructure for Uranium Production in Jordan

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Uranium exploration activities continue in the Central Jordan Area (CJ). CJ is located in the central part of Jordan and occupies an area of approximately 667 km². CJ extends from about 50 to 100 km south of Amman along the Amman-Aqaba highway.

The Energy and Mineral Regulatory Commission (EMRC) was established in 2014 as successor to the Jordan Nuclear Regulatory Commission in accordance to the Merging Law number (17). The EMRC is the national Nuclear Regulatory Body to regulate radiation and nuclear facilities and activities, electricity power and mineral resources by the Law Number (8) and was developed in 2017.

The current enforced law for Radiation and Nuclear Materials, Facilities and Activities, Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Security is the Law no. (43) developed in 2007. At present, there is a new more comprehensive Nuclear Law that was drafted and submitted to the Jordanian Parliament. The new comprehensive law was drafted based on the IAEA standards Expert Recommendations and International Best Practice.

Applicable laws, regulations and guidance for uranium production in Jordan is Law No. (43) developed in 2007. This Law is titled "Radiation Protection, and Nuclear safety and Security". EMRC is obliged to oversee all activities in order fulfil the requirements of radiation safety, security, safeguards and environmental protection.

The Jordanian Uranium Mining Company (JUMCO) is a private shareholding Jordanian company wholly owned by the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC). The company was officially launched on January 2nd, 2013 for the purpose of exploration of uranium in CJ in accordance with international standards. According to Law no. (42) Article (14), JAEC is legally authorized to conduct exploration, mining, production and processing of uranium ore.

As any country wishing to mine uranium there are challenging issues in the Jordan regulatory system in regards to the safety framework for uranium production such as:

- Interactions with other relevant governmental organizations.
- Draft regulation is still under review and development phase, which needs a thorough assessment to cover all regulatory control and oversight activities of uranium production.
- Feedback from external experts and international best practices shall be included in this regard.
- Limitation of expertise and knowledge in licensing of such uranium production facilities, within EMRC internal staff
- Training program to support regulatory framework is to be evolved and implemented

Jordan is interested in learning more about the best practices of other countries in regards to the regulation of uranium production.