

From: Peer review team
Sent: July 02, 2013
To: AEC
Subject: Taiwan Peer Review

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The Taiwanese nuclear regulatory body (AEC) has declared, that they have conducted nuclear stress tests to their nuclear power plants on basis of the ENSREG specification. Next, the Taiwanese authorities invited the European Commission (EC) to conduct a peer review of these stress tests similar to the ones performed in the course of the EU Stress Tests, i.e. as final part of the stress tests exercise.

As the whole stress tests and peer review exercises were done in Europa in English language, the Taiwanese exercise as well has to be done only in English. This counts also for the public consultation.

The nuclear stress tests are reassessments of all nuclear power plants by the licensees on basis of the ENSREG specification. These reassessments are first assessed by the national regulators (in Taiwan: AEC) and will then be peer reviewed by international peer review teams.

In the case of Taiwan this peer review is a service by the EC, which organized a team of experts with representatives of European regulatory bodies and EC services.

To enhance the credibility of and the confidence in the nuclear regulatory bodies and to strengthen their independence from political or economic influence nuclear regulation should be done as transparent as possible.

High transparency vis-à-vis the public was a key principle when performing the stress tests and peer reviews in Europe.

The transparency activities are based on two columns:

1. The European or ENSREG column and
2. The national column represented by every single national regulator.

Within Europa there were some differences how national regulators dealt with their public (some details see in the “questions and answers paper”).

The nuclear stress tests and the peer review in Taiwan shall be conducted as transparent as in Europa.

Therefore in respect to the European column:

The EC (partly represented by the peer review team)

- published in English on the ENSREG website the national stress tests report and in the future some other important information including the final peer review country report,
- invited on the ENSREG website to a public consultation in English and offered the public to put questions and give comments to the Taiwanese stress tests and the peer review.
- informed beforehand several interested groups and organization about the possibility to take part in the public consultation process via internet
- had contact and is interested to have further contact to interested groups and stakeholders and
- will have a meeting in Taiwan at the beginning of the peer review with interested groups and stakeholders

The national column of transparency in Taiwan seems comparable to Europe, if AEC publishes the national report, the licensee reports and other important documents referring to the stress tests exercise in national language, in Chinese. And it is a good practice if AEC gives the Taiwanese public the opportunity to ask questions and give comments in respect to the nuclear stress tests and the insofar important documents. How are the two columns linked to each other?

The information gathered within the European column the peer review team gets directly.

It is an EC (ENSREG) website and all is done in English. If there are new questions put by stakeholders, AEC will be requested to give written answers before starting the country visit.

If there should arrive contributions in Chinese on the ENSREG public website, these contributions will be handed over to AEC to make of all Chinese contributions one summary, where AEC shall list the addressed items and give answers in case of new and not within the national report given answers. Otherwise AEC shall give references to the concerned chapter and page of the national report.

All information, questions or comments AEC gets via the national transparency track is first a task of AEC, to deal with. AEC is the national regulator and the contributions are coming from its national public.

In Europa the peer review teams didn't get these contributions neither in the national language nor translated into English. A few regulators had the contributions on their websites. Some regulators informed their country peer review team before the country visit others didn't. In the case of Taiwan there will take place a meeting with NGOs and other stakeholders at the beginning of the country visit. Surely the NGOs and the other stakeholder will address all important issues, but nevertheless AEC should list the addressed items and give answers in case of new and not within the national report given answers. Otherwise AEC shall give references to the concerned chapter and page of the national report.

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