

## Joint Press Release **ENSREG - ANRA**

### **Comprehensive risk and safety assessments (stress tests) of the Armenian nuclear power plant Peer Review of the National Action Plan**

Brussels,  
17 February 2020

The report of the Peer Review, conducted on the Armenian National Action Plan as part of EU Stress Test process, has been published today. The review was carried out by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the full Peer Review report that details the outcome of the review, endorsed by ENSREG, has been published and can be found on the ENSREG website<sup>1</sup>.

The **Peer Review was conducted in an open and collaborative manner and in full compliance with the specification for the EU stress test, including on transparency**<sup>2</sup>. The peer review was conducted by a team of nine experts from EU and non-EU Member States and the team also included two representatives of the European Commission and four observers<sup>3</sup>. The **Peer Review Team** recognizes and commends the positive, open and transparent way in which Armenia Nuclear Regulatory authority - ANRA and the licensee sought to address all their comments and questions during the review.

The peer review team found that the structure and the content of the Armenian National Action Plan were adequate and in accordance with the requirements of the EU stress tests. The team recognized the work that had been undertaken since 2016 and the progress made to protect the installations from external hazards. Nevertheless, **a significant amount of work was still to be completed** at the Metsamor NPP in order to implement the physical improvements necessary to address the actions emerging from the application of the stress test process, particularly associated with improved seismic resistance, developing the overall concept and technical solution to address the station blackout event and completing the implementing symptom based Emergency operating procedures - EOPs and Severe accident management guidelines - SAMGs.

The peer review team recommends that **ANRA should classify all safety improvements** from the National Action Plan **according to their safety significance** and **ensure their implementation** in a timeline commensurate with their classification. It is further recommended that **an integrated plan should be developed** to implement the safety improvements required by the stress test National Action Plan, the continuous safety upgrade program and those in the context of Life Time Extension of the ANPP.

#### **Background**

In the wake of the Fukushima accident in 2011, Europe took the lead in carrying out comprehensive risk and safety assessments ("Stress Tests") of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) to assess how they can withstand a Fukushima type event.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ensreg.eu/armenia>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed information is publically available on the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) website <http://www.ensreg.eu/EU-Stress-Tests/Background-and-Specifications>

<sup>3</sup> 1 from the IAEA, 1 from the Russian Federation, 1 from Belarus and 1 from the Islamic Republic of Iran

**In 2011 the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Croatia, Russian Federation, Swiss Confederation, Republic of Turkey, Ukraine, in cooperation with the EU, confirmed their willingness to undertake on a voluntary basis, comprehensive risk and safety assessments ('stress tests'), in accordance with the specifications agreed by the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) on 24 May 2011.**

The final results of the EU Stress Tests have provided important technical insights for safety improvements for all participating countries – EU and neighboring. The EU Stress Tests have been carried out in a transparent manner in the interests of citizens and a stronger global safety culture. Since the beginning, the stress tests have been carried out on a voluntary basis. The **European Commission** and the **European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG)** have continually expressed their willingness to support any non-EU country wishing to undertake the same kind of peer review process and this support has been extended to Armenia.

In line with its voluntary commitment, Armenia prepared a National Report in 2015, which made a series of recommendations associated with identified safety improvements and it hosted a peer-review of the National Report undertaken by ENSREG in 2016. In 2017, following the report of the ENSREG Peer Review Team (PRT), the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA) prepared a National Action Plan (NAcP) that incorporated safety improvements from the National Report and that of the PRT. This NAcP with updates on implementation of measures covered was submitted to ENSREG for peer review in October 2019.

This was the first peer review of a National Action Plan since the two workshops to peer review the NAcPs in the EU, held in 2013 and 2015. Consequently, **the approach adopted for Armenia differed from previous exercises**, it was carried out simultaneously on the NAcP and on the update of the non-reviewed NAcP, after approximately two years of implementation, and it was the first to be carried out individually on the NAcP of a country and reported accordingly.

The objective of the peer review was to consider the way the actions included in the National Action Plan had been developed from the National Report, the Stress Test PRT's recommendations and other relevant recommendations, it also assessed the adequacy of progress in implementing the actions. The review comprised two stages, the first, a desktop review exercise resulting in PRT questions and subsequent answers from ANRA, which paved the way for the second: a peer review mission to Armenia, which took place from 25 to 29 November 2019.

Detailed information on the Armenian Stress Test process and associated documents have been published on the ENSREG website: <http://www.ensreg.eu/armenia>