

Message from Geoff Vaughan, NUSSC Chairman

At the 29th NUSSC meeting in June 2010, the draft of the post-member states comments draft of DS414, which is the revision of NS-R-1, was to have been considered. The draft was also on the agendas of the other Safety Standards Committees as it is a Requirements document and was being put forward for approval to be passed up to the CSS with a recommendation for publishing.

However, prior to the meeting, it became apparent that there were some parts of the draft that were controversial and which some countries were not willing to accept. These mainly related to the definitions of plant states, which included states, which had previously been considered to not be within the design basis, within the design basis. The argument for this was that future NPP should be designed to provide a higher degree of safety by dealing more explicitly within the design with lower frequency, higher consequence accidents, in particular those involving molten fuel. One effect of these changes was that the Glossary definitions would change which could affect many other Safety Standards. Due to these concerns the request for approval to send the draft to CSS was withdrawn and only a limited discussion of the draft took place. The other SSC dealt with the draft in a similar manner.

At the NUSSC meeting it was proposed that a small group of volunteers from the members should meet to resolve the issues, chaired by myself. This group used email to discuss the position and met on 6-9th September to develop a final draft. Those attending (some were NUSSC members, some their delegates) represented Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, UAE and USA plus myself as chairman and representing the UK and several Agency staff, in particular the Technical Officer, Marco Gasparini. After much discussion an approach was developed that was acceptable to all at the meeting. Although the approach involves some changes to the definitions, these are not as extensive as had been in the draft prior to the NUSSC meeting. Due to the timing of the meeting, Marco was left with a tight schedule for the task of changing the draft document so that it was consistent throughout all its contents with the agreed approach. The attendees at the meeting then had to agree with the changes and inevitably, further minor modifications were necessary.

These processes have meant that it has not been possible to upload the draft with the precise 2 months notice before the 30th NUSSC in November. However I am pleased that we have now produced a draft that is sufficiently well-developed to be presented and discussed at the NUSSC meeting, with the request for it to be approved to be sent to CSS. I hope that all the NUSSC members will forgive us the few days delay and that the discussion on approval can take place at this meeting.

Geoff Vaughan 29 September 2010