



The French Experience with International Cooperation on the EPR project

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Contents of the presentation

- An experience of a shared assessment on the EPR project
- An experience of a joint assessment on the EPR project
- Perspectives and concluding remarks



An experience of a shared assessment on the EPR project (2004-2008)

- Participation in the French Standing Group of experts for reactors on EPR topics :
 - Invitation of USNRC experts
 - In 2004, a Finnish expert from STUK was nominated
- Sharing of the French Standing Group's reports related to the safety assessment of the French EPR project



An experience of a shared assessment on the EPR project (2004-2008)

- Technical meetings between regulatory and technical counterparts on different topics : I&C, severe accidents management, probability safety assessment ...
- British EPR project : participation of an ASN inspector in a one week inspection of British authority in Paris (AREVA and EDF)
- An HSE inspector working within the ASN Nuclear Power Plant Department for a long-time period

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An experience of a shared assessment on the EPR project (2004-2008)

- Challenges of a shared assessment
 - To accept to be challenged by foreign regulators
 - To trust the work done abroad
 - To make converge the national approaches
- Benefits of a shared assessment
 - Regulator's positions are stronger when internationally shared

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An experience of a shared assessment on the EPR project (1989-2000)

French and German common safety objectives on the EPR project

- Based on a draft prepared by the French and German technical support organizations (IPSN and GRS), the French and German advisory committees for nuclear reactors (GPR and RSK) adopted in 1993 a "proposal for a common safety approach for future PWRs"
- This proposal was then approved by the French and German nuclear safety authorities (ASN and BMU) in a joint declaration sent to the designers of the EPR project

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asn An experience of a joint assessment on the EPR project (1989-2000)

French and German assessment of the Safety Options

- Until 1998 :
Joint technical assessment and regulatory positions
- After 1998 (German political decision to phase out nuclear power) :
Joint technical assessment and French nuclear authority positions

In October 2000, adoption of the ***“Technical guidelines for design and construction of the next generation of nuclear power plants with pressurized water reactors”***

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asn An experience of a joint assessment on the EPR project (1989-2000)

- Challenges of a joint assessment
 - To accept to call in question its practices
 - To trust the work done abroad
 - To make converge the national approaches
- Benefits of a joint assessment
 - Regulator's positions are stronger when internationally shared
 - To share expertise workload
 - To ensure that the same PWR design be licensable in both countries

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asn Perspectives and concluding remarks

1993 2000 2004 2007

French and German political decision to launch the EPR project

Finland

MDEP : USA, UK, Canada,...

Cooperation to define some common safety objectives

Cooperation to make the safety assessment more robust

- To develop multilateral cooperation on EPR project design
- To develop cooperation on EPR construction

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➤ International cooperation : an opportunity

- To develop consistency between regulators
- To exchange between experts to make the safety assessment more robust and to increase the safety level
- To identify earlier potential technical issues likely to arise during design review
- To leverage the resources and knowledge of the national regulatory authorities
- To develop joint assessment on specific subjects
