



NRC NEWS

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NRC Issues Eighth U.S. National Report for Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published the [Eighth National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety](#), describing the U.S. government's actions under the convention to achieve and maintain a high level of safety for its country's nuclear power plants.

The convention was adopted in 1996 and ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1999. It establishes legally binding obligations for signatory states regarding national regulation and safety at commercial nuclear power facilities.

The report demonstrates how the United States implements a high level of nuclear safety by enhancing national measures and international cooperation, and by meeting the obligations of all the articles established by the convention. Countries that are parties to the convention meet every three years to discuss their reports. The NRC has submitted the U.S. report for peer review by other countries. NRC officials will discuss the report and respond to peer review questions at the eighth review meeting of the CNS at the International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna, Austria, in March 2020.

This report addresses issues identified through the peer review conducted during the seventh review meeting in 2017, as well as challenges and issues that have since arisen. The seventh review meeting identified several challenges for the United States, including:

- Establishing the acceptance criteria for plant operation beyond 60 years
- Clarifying backfit guidance and implementation
- Ensuring continuity during the oversight transition from plant construction to operation

Ongoing activities since 2017 discussed in the report include:

- Developing and qualifying accident-tolerant fuel
- Emergency preparedness for small modular reactors and other nuclear technologies
- Changes to the Reactor Oversight Process

The report includes a section developed by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations describing the U.S. industry's work to ensure safety. INPO officials will also be part of the U.S. delegation to the convention review meeting.