PRESS RELEASE

ACTIONS TAKEN BY AERB POST FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board continues to closely follow the events unfolding at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant following recent earthquake and tsunami that has caused devastation and damage of unprecedented magnitude. AERB expresses its concern and sympathy to all the affected persons in Japan and acknowledges the extraordinary efforts put in by the operators and staff working in the Fukushima Daiichi units to bring the plants to safe conditions.

Following the events that unfurled in the Fukushima Daiichi units, AERB convened a Board Meeting on 23rd March 2011 to take stock of the situation vis-à-vis safety of Indian NPPs. The Board members were apprised of the accident and status of the Fukushima plants, and also about the safety provisions provided in our plants. Future course of action for ensuring safety of our plants in the light of the Fukushima Plant was reviewed.

AERB considers it important that the safety of our plants be thoroughly reviewed in the light of this event. In the past also steps were taken to draw lessons from Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Tokaimura incidents. In the wake of Fukushima nuclear accident, a high level Committee has been constituted by AERB which includes experts
ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

from various national institutes to assess the preparedness of the existing nuclear power plants in India to deal with such a situation arising out of a natural disaster. The committee will review the safety provision of existing NPPs including storage of spent fuel at all nuclear power plants sites.

AERB is closely following the events at Fukushima Daiichi units and also keeping a close watch on the radiation levels in India. The media and press and public have been kept informed on the situation through press releases and updates on AERB website.

The information of radiation levels prevailing at various locations in India is updated on AERB’s website on a daily basis. AERB has also identified three institutions in India for analysis of radioactive contamination in food samples, if any. Presently, AERB has not insisted on screening of persons for contamination coming from Japan to India.

AERB has formed an in-house monitoring cell to constantly follow and monitor the events at Fukushima NPP and to coordinate with Technical Support Organizations to collect information on radiation levels, contamination levels in air, water and soil at regular intervals, so as to evolve necessary guidance as required in the evolving situation.

(R. Bhattacharya)