Investing in Trust
Nuclear Regulators and the Public

Preliminary announcement and programme outline

OECD/NEA Workshop
Paris, France
29 November - 1 December 2000
INVESTING IN TRUST

OECD WORKSHOP ON
NUCLEAR REGULATORS AND THE PUBLIC
PARIS, 29 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER 2000

Sponsorship

The OECD Workshop on Investing in Trust: Nuclear Regulators and the Public to be held from 29 November to 1 December 2000 in Paris, France is sponsored by the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

Background and Purpose of the Meeting

Following the publication in 1999 of a report on New Future Nuclear Regulatory Challenges, the CNRA decided to organise in 2000 a Workshop on the subject of the interface between regulatory bodies and the public, public confidence, and accountability.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to exchange information and views on how regulatory authorities organise or plan to expand Interface with the Public. Both the words “Interface” and “Public” have to be understood in a broad sense. In the context of the Workshop, “public” should include all stakeholders outside the regulatory body, i.e.: lay public, professional bodies, media, pressure groups, and elected representatives. “Interface” refers to communication with the public, an interactive process in many countries, an information-only process in others. It was agreed that in the context of the Workshop, “interface” should mean all types of regulators’ involvement with the public, i.e. provision of information, consultation, hearings, local liaison groups, response to questions, etc.

Objectives

In addition to exchanging information and views, the Workshop will aim at developing conclusions and recommendations to assist the CNRA in establishing an action plan for international collaboration in the area of expanding regulatory authorities’ interactions with the public.

Scope of the Workshop

A preliminary list of issues has been identified (without any order of priority):

- public confidence, accountability to the public
- public information policy, public right of access to information
- how to maintain regulatory culture separate from utility culture
- public input vs. regulatory input
- “educating” the public, “educating” the media
- how to identify subjects on which regulators should inform?
- how to reach the right publics with that information
- size, resources, products, scope of information/communication units
- how can regulators improve international collaboration on issues?
- share experience on pro-actively seeking knowledge on public concerns and information needs
- contributions to forums where regulators are not the sole source of information
- drawing the line: regulators vs. licensees, education vs. promotion, listening to the public vs. doing what the public wants or asks for
- types and mechanisms for public participation

**Participation in the Workshop**

In order to foster meaningful and substantial discussions and to facilitate sharing of experience, attendance at the Workshop will be largely restricted to those in regulatory organisations but should include: those in designated public relations or “communications” roles, those engaged in interfacing with the public in their technical roles (e.g., drafting regulations, inspecting sites), and those with management responsibilities for communications.

It would be both impractical and contrary to the purpose of the Workshop to invite all public groups, and nuclear industry, to attend the meeting. As usual for CNRA Workshops, attendance will be controlled by Committee members. Efforts will be made to collect, in advance of the Workshop, the views of public groups and industry through surveys. The results of these will be presented during relevant sessions of the meeting.

Participants should fill in the attached Participant Registration Form and send it *as soon as possible*, and in any case before 31 October 2000, to:

Mr. Jacques Royen  
Nuclear Safety Division, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency,  
Le Seine - Saint Germain, 12 Boulevard des Iles  
F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France  
Phone: +33 (1) 45 24 10 52; Fax: +33 (1) 45 24 11 29; E-mail: jacques.royen@oecd.org
Chairmanship of the Meeting

The Chairman of the Workshop will be Prof. J. Laaksonen (CNRA Chairman). He will be assisted during the general discussions by a moderator, Mrs. M.-D. Montel.

Organising Committee

An Organising Committee has been appointed. Its role is to define more precisely the objectives and scope of the Workshop, to develop the Programme and contribute to its organisation, to identify Invited Speakers and Session Chairmen/Chairwomen and encourage them to participate in the meeting, to help the Chairman summarise the highlights of the meeting and draw conclusions and recommendations for the CNRA. The Organising Committee will also promote participation in the Workshop.

The Organising Committee will be assisted by Mrs. M.-D. Montel. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. J. Royen (address above). The members are:

Ms. Susan Copeland
Director, Communications Division, Atomic Energy Control Board, P.O. Box 1046 - Station B, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, K1P 5S9, Canada
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Mr. Jean-Paul Samain
Directeur Général, Agence Fédérale de Contrôle Nucléaire Rue Ravenstein, 36, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
Phone: +32 (2) 289 21 01/00/02; Fax: +32 (2) 289 21 12/03; E-mail: afcn@afcn.uunethost.be
Programme Outline

The following Programme outline has been developed by the Organising Committee:

Session 1: Why we are here (Invited Papers)

Introductory session, including one or more paper(s) summarising examples of good and bad interfaces with the public, results of surveys, and a presentation of the objectives of the Workshop.

Session 2: Opportunity or Nightmare? (Invited Papers)

This will deal with good and bad communications experiences of those in regulatory organisations, with shared examples of instances where pro-active seeking of public participation has yielded clear benefits or been less successful.

Session 3: Defining Identities (Invited Papers)

In order to interface appropriately with the public, it is necessary to define both the nature and role of the regulator, and also the composition and characteristics of discrete groups making up the “public”. Results of survey/viewpoints on input from public groups will also be presented in this session.

Session 4: Drawing the Line (Invited Papers)

The session will attempt to clarify where to draw the line between the regulatory role and what is demanded from regulators by different groups within the public. Survey results will be presented.

Session 5: Sharing Experience (Contributed Papers)

Short presentations will be encouraged for this session, to facilitate as wide a sharing of experience as possible, in the areas of communications/information and of public participation/interaction.

Session 6: Working Together as Regulators (Contributed Papers)

This session will “look to the future”. It will discuss ways to improve communications within regulatory organisations and between them. Conclusions and recommendations will be drawn.
In addition to reports on the results of surveys, Sessions 1 to 4 will consist in the presentation of Invited Papers. Sessions 5 and 6 will be based on the presentation of short Contributed Papers. One or more session(s) may be organised in the form of a panel discussion.

In parallel with the main sessions, a live regulatory bodies’ Internet sites “poster session” will be organised during the Workshop.

Invited Speakers (Sessions 1 to 4) - Abstracts of Papers

Invited Speakers will be identified by the Organising Committee, who will get in touch with them. To the extent possible, Invited Speakers are requested to provide Mr. Royen (address above), preferably by e-mail, with abstracts (400-600 words) of their presentations as soon as possible, and in any case before 31 March 2000.

Other Speakers (Sessions 5 and 6) - Abstracts of Papers

Participants wishing to present brief papers describing their experience in the areas of communications/information and of public participation/interaction, or proposing ways to improve communications within regulatory organisations and between them, are requested to provide Mr. Royen (address above), preferably by e-mail, with short abstracts (100-200 words) of their presentations as soon as possible, and in any case before 30 June 2000.

Languages of the Meeting

The official languages of the Workshop will be English and French.

Proceedings of the Workshop

The proceedings of the meeting will be published by the NEA as soon as possible. Authors will be requested to hand over to a representative of NEA at the beginning of the Workshop an electronic version and a suitable photo-ready master copy of their paper, for inclusion in the Proceedings. Editorial requirements for the master copy will be communicated in due course.

Location of the Workshop - Local Arrangements

The Workshop will be held on the premises of the Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer (UIC), 16 Rue Jean Rey, Paris-15, France. It will start in the morning of 29 November 2000 and finish during the afternoon of 1 December.

Information regarding local arrangements (hotel reservations, transportation, social events, etc.) will be sent to registered participants in due course.
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR REGULATORY ACTIVITIES (CNRA)

The Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is an international committee made up primarily of senior nuclear regulators. It was set up in 1989 as a forum for the exchange of information and experience among regulatory organisations and for the review of developments, which could affect regulatory requirements.

The Committee is responsible for those NEA activities concerning the regulation, licensing and inspection of nuclear installations. The Committee reviews developments which could affect regulatory requirements with the objective of providing members with an understanding of the motivation for new regulatory requirements under consideration and an opportunity to offer suggestions that might improve them or avoid disparities among Member countries. In particular, the Committee reviews current practices and operating experience.

The Committee focuses primarily on power reactors and other nuclear installations currently being built and operated. It also may consider the regulatory implications of new designs of power reactors and other types of nuclear installations.

In implementing its programme, the CNRA establishes co-operative mechanisms with the NEA Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI), responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the Agency concerning the technical aspects of design, construction and operation of nuclear installations insofar as they affect the safety of such installations. It also co-operates with the NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) and the NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWM C) on matters of common interest.

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) was established on 1st February 1958 under the name of the OEEC European Nuclear Energy Agency. NEA membership today consists of 27 OECD Member countries. The Commission of the European Communities takes part in the work of the Agency.

The primary objective of the NEA is to promote co-operation among the governments of its participating countries in furthering the development of nuclear power as a safe, environmentally acceptable and economic energy source. The NEA works in close collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with which it has concluded a Co-operation Agreement, as well as with other international organisations in the nuclear field.
CE OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

INVESTING IN TRUST
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NUCLEAR REGULATORS AND THE PUBLIC

Paris, France,
29 November - 1 December 2000

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM

To be sent, as soon as possible, and in any case before 31 October 2000, to:

Mr. Jacques ROYEN
OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, Le Seine Saint-Germain
12 Boulevard des Illes, F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France
Telefax: +33 1 4524 1129; E-mail: jacques.royen@oecd.org

Surname (Family Name): .................................................................

Given Name(s): .................................................................

(please indicate whether Prof., Dr., Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

Title or Function: .................................................................

Institution, Organisation or Company (full address): .................................................................

Telephone No.: ................................................................. Ext.: ............

Telefax No.: .................................................................

E-mail: .................................................................

Title of the paper you will present (if any): .................................................................

Will you present an Internet site during the Poster Session? Yes ☐ No ☐