**Questionnaire A**

**Inspection Activities during the Transition from an Operating Reactor to a Defueled Status with a Commitment to Cease Power Operation**

Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Notes:

Only one response per country is required. If more than one person from your country is participating, please co-ordinate the responses accordingly.

Submittals should be sent by email to *nancy.salgado@oecd.org* by 17 February 2016

**FORWARD**

When the decision to permanently cease power operations is made, new safety issues may arise. Regulatory bodies (RB) must be aware of these issues and be prepared to respond/address them through their inspection programmes. Areas such as organisation, human, technical and financial[[1]](#footnote-1) may require different inspection approaches.

The purpose of the task is to identify commendable practices and share information about methods, procedures and criteria used to inspect a licensee transitioning from an operating reactor to a defueled status, with a commitment to permanently cease power operations.

It should be recognised that the end point of this workshop topic was difficult to establish. However, for the purposes of the workshop topic, it was determined to limit the scope to the transition phase, which is defined as the time frame between the licensee’s commitment (announced or unannounced) to permanently cease power operations and final defueling of the reactor vessel. This workshop topic excludes physical security.

Questions below relate to both regulatory framework and inspection activities.

The focus of this workshop topic is to identify commendable inspection practices by RBs to verify that a licensee maintains safety during the transition phase.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

For preparation of the workshop, participants are invited to supply their national inspection approaches used according to the following questionnaire:

1. **FRAMEWORK**

1.1 What are your RB’s regulatory requirements governing the transition from an operating reactor to a decommissioning reactor?

1.2 When is it no longer considered an operating reactor? Describe the factors and criteria used in this consideration.

1. **INSPECTION PROGRAMME**

2.1 Describe how and when your RB expects to be informed by the licensee that they commit to permanently cease power operations (e.g. informally vs. formally, timeframe).

2.2 When the licensee has committed to permanently cease power operations, does your RB’s inspection programme change?

**a**. Describe changes to the inspection programme (e.g. scope, frequency, etc.).

**b**. Describe how risk is considered when changing the inspection programme.

2.4 Describe how your RB modifies its inspection programme in the following instances:

**a.** with significant advanced formal notification or informal awareness (years); and

**b**. with minimal advanced formal notification or informal awareness (months).

2.5 When are the changes to your RB’s inspection programme implemented in relation to the date the licensee intends to permanently cease power operations?

2.6 Describe how your RB addresses unresolved safety concerns (e.g. those found in Periodic Safety Review, non-compliances, modifications, etc.) and inspection findings upon becoming aware that the licensee is committed to permanently cease power operations.

1. **SCOPE of INSPECTIONS**

3.1 Does your RB identify and define, by internal procedure/process or otherwise, differences **in the scope and level of effort** of inspections conducted during the transition phase (compared to the same inspections conducted prior to the transition phase)? If so, describe how the identified inspections are modified.

3.2 With respect to the scope and level of effort of inspections, which areas increase in importance, which areas decrease in importance and which areas maintain their importance? Use “+” to indicate an increase in importance, “0” to indicate no change and “-” to indicate a decrease in importance, and give a brief comment explaining why.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Areas** | **Scope**(use +, 0, -) | **Level of Effort**(use +, 0, -) |  **Comments**  |
| Control of foreign material (FME) |  |  |  |
| Corrective action programme |  |  |  |
| Design basis inspections (e.g. systems, structures, components) |  |  |  |
| Emergency preparedness (e.g. programme, exercises, availability of emergency response facilities) |  |  |  |
| Environmental issues |  |  |  |
| Equipment qualification (e.g. maintaining level of requirements) |  |  |  |
| Financial resources (e.g. cost reduction plans, staffing, materials, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Fire protection |  |  |  |
| Housekeeping |  |  |  |
| In service inspections (periodic tests) |  |  |  |
| Industrial safety (personal safety) |  |  |  |
| Licensee interaction with external stakeholders |  |  |  |
| Maintenance activities |  |  |  |
| Management of contractors |  |  |  |
| Modifications (permanent and temporary) |  |  |  |
| Organisation and general management |  |  |  |
| Qualification of licensee staff or contractors (e.g. new staff, language challenges, preservation of knowhow) |  |  |  |
| Quality assurance |  |  |  |
| Radiological protection |  |  |  |
| Safety culture (e.g. motivation of staff, staff turnover) |  |  |  |
| Staffing levels (e.g. minimum shift complement, Emergency Response Team, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Sub-criticality and fuel safety |  |  |  |
| Training programmes |  |  |  |
| Waste management |  |  |  |
| \*Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  |
| \*Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  |
| \*Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  |

\*Any other specific areas not mentioned above

1. **RB ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

4.1 Describe how your RB manages internal changes to face new challenges resulting from a licensee’s commitment to permanently cease power operations and to verify the continued effectiveness of its inspection capabilities. Include in your response a discussion of the following areas:

a. organisational structure of the RB

b. changes to the number of inspectors

c. training of inspectors

d. safety culture (e.g. motivation of RB inspectors)

4.2 Describe how your RB uses international inspection experience for nuclear power plants that have committed to and eventually permanently ceased power operations.

Are there any other important topics that you would like to be considered at the workshop?

1. Financial resources to continue safe operation of the NPP till the end of life. This does not cover funds for decommissioning activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)