

International Atomic Energy Agency

Nuclear Security Guidance Committee 15th Meeting

The 15th Meeting of the IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC-15) was held between 1st and 4th July 2019 at the IAEA, Vienna.

WNTI are represented at the NSGC by Simon Chaplin.

An overview was given of the current state of progress in developing nuclear security guidance. The NSGC expressed strong frustration at the delays caused by the lack of IAEA editing resources and requested that the department responsible for this work give a briefing on their work at the next NSGC meeting.

The Chair of the CM on NSS-20 'Objective and essential elements of a State's nuclear security regime' provided an overview of the discussions and preliminary conclusions reached by the CM held, on 10-15 June 2019. The CM could not reach consensus on any recommendation as to whether a revision should be initiated at this time. The NSGC accepted that there were several issues that needed to be clarified, updated or corrected, especially dealing with definitions. Some members thought these provided enough justification to proceed with a limited revision now, while others wished to see the outcome of other planned reviews of NSS-13, 14 and 15 before making a decision to pursue a revision, or to consider other possible ways to address these issues.

It had been hoped that the NSGC would be given an update on the Agency's ongoing work on safety-security interfaces. Unfortunately, this item was not addressed due to the absence of available staff from the Office of Safety and Security Coordination (NSOC). The NSGC hope to obtain a roadmap of these activities.

An overview was provided on the work being done by both the NSGC safety/security interface publications working group and the Secretariat to prepare material for a potential DPP on safety-security interfaces. The NSGC noted that there is a large amount of work being done on safety-security interfaces and expressed concern that this work was not particularly coordinated. The NSGC requested that the Secretariat conduct a CM to develop a DPP on safety-security interfaces using all the information gathered so far. The CM should include security experts and safety experts and be suitably representative of the diverse nuclear programs found in the NSGC members.

A review of documents included;

An outline for a potential draft publication on trustworthiness – following a presentation outlining the contents that might be included in a draft publication on trustworthiness there was a wide range of views that centred on the process of establishing trustworthiness and how trustworthiness is used in a nuclear security regime. The NSGC requested a revised outline to be presented at NSGC-16 taking into account the views expressed during the discussion.

NST024 'Security management and security plans for radioactive material and associated facilities' - it was noted that this did not include transport.

DS469 'Preparedness and Response for an Emergency during the Transport of Radioactive Material'. The NSGC cleared the draft for submission to the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS).

NST053 'Security of nuclear material and other radioactive material in transport' – completing draft which will be sent out for the 120-day review within the next couple of NSGC meetings.

A 'roadmap' showing the status of NSS publications was circulated.

The future meetings for the NSGC are scheduled for;

16th NSGC - 18th to 21st November 2019,

17th NSGC - 15th to 18th June 2020,

18th NSGC - 30th November to 4th December 2020.

Any questions relating to the NSGC meetings should be directed to Simon Chaplin simonc@wnti.co.uk