



28 June 2022

South Africa presents its National Report at the Seventh Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) taking place at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, from 27 June 2022 to 01 July 2022.



South African Delegation to the Seventh Review Meeting

A South African delegation comprising of representatives from the South African Mission in Vienna, National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Eskom, South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) and the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute (NRWDI) joined more than 750 representatives from the 88 Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention for the start of the Seventh Review Meeting taking place over two weeks.

The Joint Convention is the only international legally binding instrument that addresses the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management on a global scale. The Joint Convention represents a commitment by participating countries to achieve and maintain a consistently high level of safety in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste as part of the global safety regime for ensuring the protection of people and the environment.

The NNR on behalf of the Government of South Africa published South Africa's Fifth National Report for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) in October 2020. The Report is available on the NNR website : <https://nnr.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SOUTH-AFRICAN-NATIONAL-REPORT-ON-COMPLIANCE-TO-OBLIGATIONS-UNDER-THE-JOINT-CONVENTION-SUBMISSION-TO-THE-SEVENTH-REVIEW-MEETING-OF-THE-CONTRACTING-PARTIES-OCTOBER-2020.pdf>

The report presents South Africa's approach to the safety of used fuel management and the safety of radioactive waste management and demonstrates how South Africa fulfils its obligations under the Joint Convention. The report contains the revisions and updates to South Africa's National Report and comments and issues raised at the Sixth Review Meeting. The report will be discussed among the Contracting Parties during the Seventh Review Meeting.

NNR's Mr Thiagan Pather, Vice President to the Joint Convention Seventh Review Meeting said that "during the first week from 27 June 2022 to 01 July 2022, the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention will present their national reports and engage in robust discussion on the measures taken to ensure compliance with obligations under the Joint Convention. Through this exchange of information on their national programmes for management of spent fuel and radioactive waste the Contracting Parties will learn from each other and contribute to the enhancement of the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste globally.

The peer review of the individual national programmes will highlight Good Practices, Areas of Good Performance, Challenges and Suggestions for the individual Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties will also identify topics that pose challenges to multiple Contracting Parties (overarching issues) and will hold discussions on the addressing of these in the closing plenary to be held during the second week from 04 to 08 July 2022."

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