

# Regulatory Updates

## Nuclear safety...

### Sixth bilateral meeting between ASN and the Japanese nuclear safety regulator

September 2018



An ASN delegation headed by its Chairman, Pierre-Franck Chevet, went to Japan to take part in the 6<sup>th</sup> bilateral meeting with the Japanese nuclear safety regulator (NRA). This meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Tokyo.

In addition to topical subjects in both countries, the presentations and discussions concerned reactors' ageing management (French and Japanese approaches and European review of reactors' ageing, linked to the 2014 nuclear safety directive), the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and radioactive waste disposal projects.

This meeting highlighted common areas of interest for future cooperation, more particularly decommissioning and the management of legacy radioactive waste.

Mr Chevet and Mr Toyoshi Fuketa, Chairman of the NRA, signed the renewal of the cooperation agreement between ASN and NRA for a period of 5 years.

Following on from the meeting, an in-depth visit to the damaged Fukushima Daiichi NPP was organised on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

### The ASN Chairman at the 62<sup>nd</sup> IAEA General Conference

September 2018

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the ASN Chairman, Mr P-F Chevet, went to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On this occasion he had a meeting with Mr J-C Lentijo, the IAEA's Deputy Director General of Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, to discuss the safety issues facing ASN, as well as IAEA work concerning the safety-security interface.

He met his counterpart at the NRC (American nuclear safety regulator), Ms K. Svinicki, accompanied by the new Director General, Ms M. Doane.

Mr Chevet and Ms Svinicki renewed the bilateral cooperation agreement between the two regulatory authorities.

In addition, safety issues, questions concerning the development of NRC strategy – on this point Ms Svinicki expressed her interest in ASN's multi-year strategic plan.

Inspectors' exchanges and new appointments to the NRC, were discussed on this occasion.

Mr Chevet also signed a cooperation agreement with Mr Al Kaabi, ambassador and Deputy Chairman of the Board of the FANR (United Arab Emirates federal authority for nuclear regulation). At the same time he met the Director General of this authority, Mr C. Viktorsson. ASN participation in training Emirati inspectors was discussed, as was the possibility of longer-term personnel exchanges.

Finally, Mr Chevet took part in the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of INRA (International Nuclear Regulators Association) chaired by South Korea. This meeting discussed cybersecurity issues and the challenges relating to decommissioning, as well as the revision of the IAEA INES manual, in the presence of the representative in charge of the project, Ms E. Buglova.

[For more information www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

### Publication of a guide on radon health monitoring in water intended for human consumption

September 2018

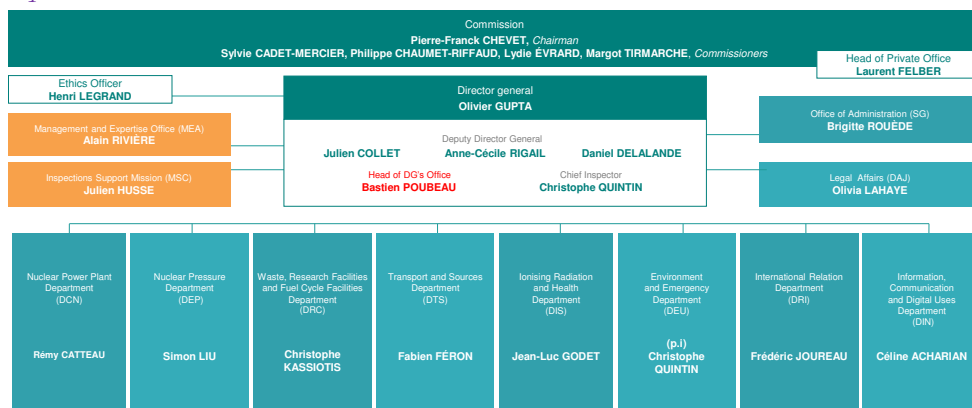
On September, a guide concerning the health monitoring and the management of health risks linked to the presence of radon in water intended for human consumption has been published (WIHC) on the ASN website. In this report:

- The first part describes the scope of the Council directive 2013/51/Euratom of 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 and the potential health effects linked to radon.
- The second part concerns the organisation of health monitoring for measuring radon in WIHC.
- The third and fourth parts present methods for managing situations in which the radon quality reference is exceeded in WIHC, as well as for informing the population.

[For more information http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/Information/Publications/Publications-for-the-professionals](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/Information/Publications/Publications-for-the-professionals)

### ASN Director General office has a new head

September 2018



Since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, Mr Bastien Poubeau (in red) has been appointed as Head of staff attached to the Director-General Office.

## Flamanville EPR project

July 2018

ASN has informed EDF of the conditions for resuming certain welding operations on the main steam transfer pipes of the Flamanville EPR reactor. The welding operations involved are restricted to those performed using the "TIG orbital" process [1] which enables high mechanical performance to be achieved.

These pipes have been the subject of design and production deviations about which ASN communicated on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 [2].

On the basis of the inspections already carried out on these pipes, EDF asked for the opinion of ASN before resuming certain welding operations using the TIG orbital process on the main steam transfer pipes.

ASN considers that the mechanical properties of the welds obtained with this process make it possible to envisage resuming the welding operations under certain conditions.

ASN requires EDF to put in place an organisation and means of monitoring that will prevent recurrence of the observed deviations. EDF will also have to demonstrate that these welding operations do meet the requirements of the break preclusion baseline.

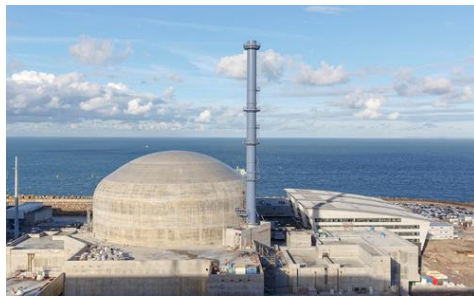
Starting of these operations remains subject to ASN approval.

For the records, in May 2018, ASN has published its Information Letter No.20 reporting on its actions for monitoring the Flamanville 3 EPR reactor construction site and the various manufactured items intended for it.

[1] TIG orbital welding is an arc welding process using a non-consumable electrode. TIG is an acronym for Tungsten Inert Gas. Tungsten refers to the electrode and Inert Gas is the type of plasmagenic gas used. The arc is created between the electrode and the part to weld with gas shielding. The arc rotates continuously at least 360° around a fixed part (such as a tube).

[2] On 10th April 2018, ASN carried out an inspection on the Flamanville EPR reactor construction site to examine how the welds on the main secondary systems were checked following EDF's discovery of welding flaws, which had not been detected during the manufacturing checks.

 [For more information  
www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)



## Publication of three decrees reinforcing protection of the public, patients and workers in the field of nuclear activities

June 2018

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018, two decrees concerning the protection of workers against the risks arising from ionising radiation and one decree containing various nuclear provisions were published in the French Official Gazette. These decrees allows correct transposition into the French law of the Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 *laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation*. They more specifically modify the regulatory parts of the Labour, Public Health, Environment and Defence Codes, and thus supplement the regulatory oversight of certain nuclear activities. These decrees:

- Update the system of radiation protection for all workers liable to be exposed to ionising radiation during the course of their professional activities, with a more consistent and comprehensive regulatory framework. Also monitoring of exposure to radon is extended to all workplaces: in basements and on ground floors, whereas previously, only underground environments were subject to mandatory monitoring.
- Reinforce the general protection of the population and of persons exposed for medical purposes, with the creation of additional tools as regards to the effectiveness of the oversight of nuclear activities: the possibility of implementing land use restrictions on sites contaminated by radioactive substances and monitoring the protection of certain sources of ionising radiation (in particular those used in industry) against malicious acts.

Most of the provisions will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. In the coming months, ASN will continue with detailed, substantive work with the Government and the professionals, for the production of Ministerial orders or of its own resolutions.

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## ASN reviewed the steps taken to deal with counterfeit, suspect and fraudulent items (CSFI)

June 2018

Irregularities which could be considered to be falsifications were detected in early 2016 on nuclear components manufactured in the Creusot Forge plant following a quality review requested by ASN. Irregularities of the same type had also been brought to light in other countries or were detected by facilities licensees or the manufacturers themselves.

This situation, which only concerns an extremely small part of the nuclear activities, but could nonetheless have significant safety implications, shows that neither the robustness of the monitoring and inspection chain, at the top of which are the manufacturers and the licensees, nor the high level of quality demanded in the nuclear industry, were able to completely rule out the risk of CSFI.

So, in order to improve prevention and detection on this matter, ASN has issued measures which concern:

- Reinforcing the provisions made by the professionals, who retain the responsibility for the quality of manufacturing and of operations, for example by requiring improved data security;
- Using external inspection organisations, to support the oversight of manufacturing activities, take samples and run cross-checks;
- Improving ASN's oversight practices, more particularly its inspection methods;
- Requiring that any fraud detected by the licensee be systematically reported to ASN;
- Implementing of a system for collecting alerts from whistle-blowers.

In a letter of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, ASN explained to professionals the applicable regulatory requirements on this subject. They shall notify ASN of the implementation of the measures before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. Also, arrangements enabling a whistle-blower to send ASN a report of potential CSFI are being prepared for the second half of 2018 and ASN intends to hire two anti-fraud specialists in 2018 and to supplement the training of its inspectors on this topic.

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