

Regulatory Updates

Nuclear safety...

ASN oversees the continued operation of basic nuclear installation 149, called the Aube Repository (CSA), operated by Andra, further to the conclusions of its periodic safety review

October 2022

ASN analysed the periodic safety review concluding report (RCR) for basic nuclear installation (BNI) 149 called the Aube Repository (CSA), operated by the French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency (Andra) on the Soulaines-Dhuys site (Aube département). This facility has a disposal capacity of one million cubic metres (m³) of low and intermediate-level, short-lived waste (LL/ILW-SL).

The purpose of the periodic safety review is, on the one hand, to verify the conformity of the facility, to ensure that it correctly follows all rules applicable to it and, on the other, to improve its level of safety taking account of changing requirements, practices and knowledge in terms of nuclear safety and radiation protection, as well as national and international operating experience feedback.

Article L. 593-18 of the Environment Code requires that the licensee conduct such a review every ten years, following which ASN communicates the results of its analysis to the Minister responsible for nuclear safety and may issue a resolution setting binding requirements for continued operation of the facility.

The periodic safety review concluding report for BNI 149 was submitted by CEA on 4 August 2016. These conclusions were examined by ASN, with the support of IRSN. During this examination, Andra undertook to implement improvements notably concerning the reinforcement of the operating buildings with regard to the seismic risk. In addition to this analysis, ASN conducted an inspection on the safety review on 1 and 2 June 2017, which revealed the implementation of a rigorous and dynamic approach.

Following examination of this report, ASN considers that the provisions proposed by Andra to manage risks and detrimental effects are pertinent. It underlines the overall quality of this periodic safety review file, the licensee's good organisation and its commitment to carrying out the various phases associated with the periodic safety review process, as well as the content of the action plan adopted by the licensee, the implementation of which has been initiated without delay.

In the light of the potential consequences associated with the long term phases following closure of the site, ASN considers that the studies concerning the hydrogeology of the site, the long-term impact of the repository on the environment and the performance of its future cover should be further in-depth.

Continued operation of BNI 149 is therefore subject to the binding requirements defined in the ASN resolution of 25 July 2022.

The concluding report for the next periodic safety review of BNI 149 shall be submitted before 3 August 2026.

To find out more:

[ASN resolution CLG-2022-006731 of 25 July 2022](#) (only in French)

[ASN Inspection from 01/06/2017 to 02/06/2017](#) (only in French)

ASN oversees the continued operation of basic nuclear installation 67, called the High-Flux Reactor, operated by Laue-Langevin Institute (ILL), further to the conclusions of its third safety review

October 2022

ASN analysed the periodic safety review concluding report (RCR) for basic nuclear installation (BNI) 67, called the High-Flux Reactor (RHF), operated by Laue-Langevin Institute (ILL) on the Grenoble site (Isère département).

The ILL, an international research organisation, accommodates a 58 Megawatts thermal (MWth) heavy-water High-Flux Neutron Reactor (RHF) which produces high-intensity thermal neutron beams for fundamental research, particularly in the areas of solid-state physics, neutron physics and molecular biology.

In recent years, made improvements to its facility, particularly in the light of the experience feedback of the Fukushima accident. The ILL plans to continue operating its facility for the next ten years.

The third periodic safety review concluding report for BNI 67 was submitted by ILL in November 2017. ILL also undertook to implement improvements especially regarding the management of fire-related and handling-related risks.

ASN notes the strong involvement of the licensee. It considers that the measures to manage risks and detrimental effects identified in the ambitious action plan by the licensee, the implementation of which has begun, will enable the installation to make further safety gains and to continue operating under satisfactory conditions until the next periodic safety review.

Following public concertation and in the light of the potential consequences associated to certain accident scenarios, ASN requires the ILL for the continued operation of the facility to comply with the provisions set out in the ASN Resolution of 28 July 2022, in particular, the improvement of preventing fire and explosion risks and risks associated to handling operation.

The concluding report for the periodic safety review of BNI 67 shall be submitted before December 2027.

To find out more:

[ASN resolution 2022-DC-0738 of 28 July 2022](#) (only in French)

Management of the long-term consequences of a nuclear accident: the Codirpa publishes its latest recommendations to the Government

October 2022

In order to consolidate national strategy regarding the management of the long-term consequences of a nuclear accident, in 2005 the Prime Minister tasked a pluralistic committee, the Codirpa (Post-accident phase steering committee) with submitting proposals to the Government.

This committee – chaired by ASN – notably includes technical experts, representatives of the State's services, members of the CLIs and the ANCCLI, associations and elected officials.

Following the publication of its first recommendations in 2012, the Codirpa continued its work in order to learn lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident and national emergency exercises, to incorporate the latest scientific and technical advances in the measurement and modelling of the dispersal of radioactivity in the environment, as well as to take account of changes to national and international regulations.

A new post-accident doctrine

The latest Codirpa recommendations for managing post-accident situations have been compiled in a guide. In 2021, they were proposed to the Government - which accepted the principles they contain - and are intended to underpin the forthcoming changes to national emergency planning.

The main changes relate to the strategy for protecting the population against environmental contamination, which has been expanded to take greater account of the risks linked to the ingestion of contaminated foodstuffs and which has been made more transparent and operational, with a graded approach to protection of the population. A summary of the new protection zoning principles is provided in a booklet.

These recommendations were tested during emergency exercises carried out in 2021 and 2022 concerning four nuclear sites, and include proposals from panels of citizens with the support of the ANCCLI and the CLIs of Golfech, Tricastin, Paluel-Penly and Dampierre-en-Burly.

Priority given to informing the public

At the same time, the Codirpa continued its work to produce guides and information tools, to better prepare for the management of such a situation and reinforce the radiation protection culture of those people in the vicinity of nuclear facilities.

After the www.post-accident-nucleaire.fr website, placed on line at the beginning of 2020, and which proposes information per population category (local elected officials, national education, health personnel, economic players, association members), a Guide for the inhabitants of areas contaminated by a nuclear accident was published in June 2020. This Guide was used on various occasions (CLI meetings, national exercises, meetings with the public) to enhance awareness of the nuclear risk.

To enable health professionals to answer questions from their patients following a nuclear accident, a Q&A Guide for health professionals was also published in early 2022. This Guide ushered in a new working method for the Codirpa working groups, which consisted in identifying the expectations of the target public and then creating the corresponding content.

The 200 questions compiled in this Guide were thus proposed by the health professionals working in the vicinity of the Civaux NPP, with answers then being proposed by a group of ten experts.

This awareness-raising and preparation work among the local stakeholders is an integral part of the Codirpa's goals of disseminating a safety and radiation protection culture around nuclear facilities. In this respect, several members of the Codirpa will be mobilised during the national resilience day on 13 October 2022.

To find out more:

[CODIRPA new work programme – Guidelines](#) - (Only in French)

[Recommendations for post-accident management of a nuclear accident \(PDF - 3.67 MB\)](#) - (Only in French)

[Codirpa – Post-accident management of a nuclear accident – New zoning principles \(PDF - 2.93 MB\)](#) - (Only in French)

[Practical guide for the inhabitants of areas contaminated by a nuclear accident – print version \(PDF - 1.82 MB\)](#) - (English version)

[Codirpa – Health consequences of a nuclear accident – Questions-answers for health professionals \(PDF - 4.13 MB\)](#) - (Only in French)

post-accident-nucleaire.fr website

ENSREG's statement #4 on the safety of nuclear installations in Ukraine

October 2022

In the context of the war led by Russia in Ukraine, the European Nuclear Safety REgulators Group (ENSREG) of the European Union met again on Tuesday 4 October 2022.

ENSREG issued a new statement during the meeting.

Read the ENSREG's statement of 4 October 2022:

<https://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/content/download/185438/file/ENSREG%20Statement%2004%20October%202022.pdf>

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