

modifications and updates for safety systems.”

Among the technical and safety issues covered during the mission were leadership and management for safety; training and qualification; emergency preparedness and response; accident management; human, technology, and organizational interactions; and long-term operation. Several good practices were identified, including the development of the capability to automatically calculate leak rate tests of containment, establishment of a process to test and improve modifications and updates early, and adoption of a key system to effectively control access to various areas of the plant.

Among its recommendations for further enhancing operational safety, the team advised plant management to improve communication of their expectations and consistently reinforce their implementation in the field; improve maintenance activities and procedures to ensure the safe and reliable performance of systems and equipment; and enhance the use of human performance tools to minimize human error.

“We consider international peer reviews to be an important element in improving nuclear safety,” said Loviisa plant manager Satu Katajala. “Exchanging best practices and learning from other plants is highly

valuable for all of us in the nuclear industry. The results and development areas of this OSART review will be included in the continuous improvement of the Loviisa power plant operations.”

After considering feedback from plant management and the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority on the OSART team’s draft report, the IAEA will submit a final report to the Finnish government within three months.

IAEA

## Guide for terminating a nuclear emergency issued

A guide on nuclear and radiological emergencies, with recommendations on when and how to go about terminating them, has been issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency. According to a March 14 press release, besides knowing when to terminate an emergency, authorities must prepare for the transition to a normal state, and the guide aims to facilitate the timely resumption of normal social and economic activity following a nuclear or radiological emergency.

*The Safety Guide on Arrangements for the Termination of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency* (No. GSG-11) offers guid-

ance on topics such as how to determine when to lift protective actions imposed in response to an emergency, including evacuations and restrictions on the consumption of local produce. The guide is designed to support national authorities in developing a process for making such decisions as part of their overall emergency preparedness efforts.

The guide is complemented by IAEA training activities, including a pilot workshop that was held in December 2017 in Vienna. “This safety guide will help decision-makers as they face the challenge of when to formally declare an emergency ended,” said Ciara McMahon, program manager of Ireland’s Environmental Protection Agency and a lecturer at the workshop. “This involves defining radiation protection considerations, as well as other factors that provide for the safety and well-being of affected populations as the emergency transitions to a new normal.”

In addition to the IAEA, the guide is supported by a number of other international organizations, including the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, and the World Meteorological Organization. **IN**

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