

Members of the IAEA mission team and Russian counterparts during a meeting on the OSART follow-up mission to the Leningrad nuclear power plant.

According to the IAEA, OSART missions aim to improve operational safety by assessing safety performance using the IAEA's safety standards and proposing recommendations and suggestions for improvement where appropriate. The follow-up missions are standard and are typically conducted within two years of the initial mission.

"Notable efforts and actions were taken to address the findings of the 2017 mission, indicating a strong commitment to continuously improving safety by the plant management," said team leader Fuming Jiang, a senior nuclear safety officer at the IAEA. "We encourage the plant management to continue this momentum to take the performance to the next level."

The three-member team included one expert from South Africa and two officials from the IAEA. The team observed improvements in the control of movable items in some sensitive areas in the plant, the use of human performance tools, and

the plant chemistry surveillance and control program.

The team noted that while significant progress has been made in other areas, more time is required to demonstrate that the improvements are fully effective and sustained. These areas include the use of forward-looking and proactive performance indicators and improvement in the radiation contamination control program.

Vladimir Pereguda, station director at the Leningrad plant, said, "We have systematically applied the OSART methodology since 2014, and together with the insights and advice provided by the 2017 mission, it has proven to be very beneficial to our efforts to continuously strengthen operational safety performance. The OSART mission has helped us to move our operational safety performance to a new level, and we will continue our effort in this journey to nuclear excellence."

The team provided a draft report of the mission to the plant's management. The plant management and the Federal Service for Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision (Rostechnadzor), which is responsible for nuclear safety oversight in Russia, will have the opportunity to make comments on the draft. These will be reviewed by the IAEA, and the final report will be submitted to the Russian government within three months.

